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THE WICKED WEST

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BASED ON CHARACTERS CREATED BY L. FRANK BAUM

The Legend of OZ: The Wicked West

writer
Tom Hutchison

artist
Alisson Borges

colors
Kate Finnegan

letters
HDE

design
Rob Duenas

edits
Kari Castor

PREVIOUSLY IN THE WICKED WEST

A girl drops out of the sky and lands on a witch. You know the story...or do you?

It has taken Dorothy Gale thre years to find the Wizard of Oz, only to be taken prisoner by the Witch of the West.

So join the wagon train and find out who wins and who loses in the Wicked Western lands of Oz!

COVERS A-D: ALISSON BORGES - COVERS E-F: ERIC BASALDUA - COVERS G-H: JENEVIEVE BROOMAL
COVER I: NEI RUFFINO - COVER J: NATALI SANDERS
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THE WIND BEGAN TO SWITCH... SO DOROTHY TOLD US.
AND THE BARN BEGAN TO PITCH.
AND WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

IT LANDED ON THE WICKED WITCH, WITH A SOUND MUCH LIKE A SQUISH.

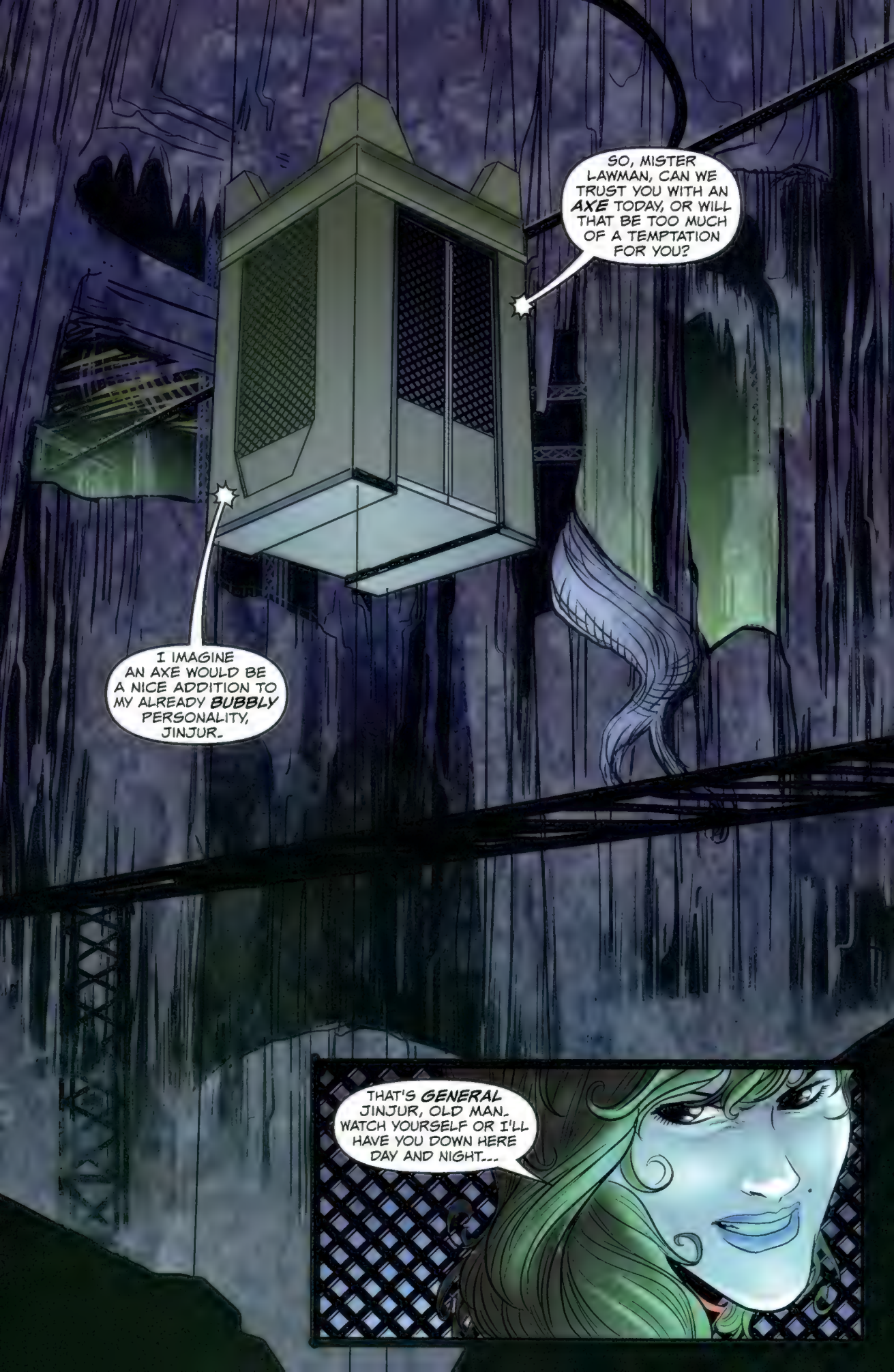
DOROTHY STUMBLED FROM THE BARN...
...AND THE MUNCHKINS WELCOMED HER TO OZ...
...BY GIVING HER THE WITCH'S **RUBY** SPURS AND PISTOLS. IT SEEMED THE WICKED WITCH OF THE EAST WAS NO LONGER IN NEED OF THEM.
AFTER A CELEBRATORY DINNER, DOROTHY PUSHED OFF DOWN THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD ON HER WAY TO THE EMERALD CITY. SHE TOOK WITH HER THE HOPE THAT THE WIZARD COULD SEND HER **HOME** TO KANSAS.

ALONG THE WAY, DOROTHY FOUND FRIENDS TO HELP HER THROUGH THE WILDS OF OZ...
...AND TO HER FINAL DESTINATION, THE TOWER OF THE WIZARD.
BUT THE JOURNEY DID NOT END THERE. THROUGH THE HAUNTED FOREST THEY WALKED, ONLY TO BE CONFRONTED BY EVIL THE LIKES OF WHICH DOROTHY COULD NEVER HAVE IMAGINED.
THE WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST WAS WAITING FOR THEM.

OZ.
SOUTH.
GLINDA'S JURISDICTION.
THE FLYING MONKEYS TOOK DOROTHY AWAY, NO DOUBT TO THE WITCH'S CASTLE.
DOES THIS ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS?
BUT, GOOD GLINDA, WHAT HAS BECOME OF DOROTHY?
OR THE WITCH OF THE WEST?
THAT PART OF THE STORY, MY FRIENDS, WILL BE REVEALED TO US AT A TIME AND PLACE THAT IS APPROPRIATE.
CAN YOU NOT JOURNEY TO THE WESTERN CASTLE TO SEE WHAT HAS HAPPENED, GOOD GLINDA?
I AM AFRAID THAT TASK IS NOT MINE TO UNDERTAKE. BUT FEAR NOT, FOR THERE ARE THOSE WHO SHARE YOUR QUESTIONS, AND THEY WILL BRING ALL OF US THE ANSWERS WE SEEK.

CENTRAL JURISDICTION OF OZ.
THE EMERALD CITY.
"YOU THINK WE'LL EVER SEE HER AGAIN?"
"BEEN NEARLY SIX MONTHS. I'D HAVE TO BET AGAINST IT AT THIS POINT."
"BUT WE HAVEN'T SEEN THE WITCH OF THE WEST EITHER. RECKON THEY DID EACH OTHER IN?"
"S'POSE IT'S POSSIBLE. NO TELLING REALLY, UNLESS YOU WANT TO HEAD OVER TO THE CASTLE AND FIND OUT FOR YERSELF."
I THINK YOU'D BE FAR BETTER SUITED FOR THAT JOURNEY THAN I, SEEIN' AS HOW YOU'RE MADE OF TOUGHER STUFF THAN MOST.
MY METTLE ISN'T WHAT'S IN QUESTION...
MY RELUCTANCE TO TRAVEL IS DUE TO THINGS BEYOND MY CONTROL.

OH, PLEASE. WITH YOUR STRENGTH YOU COULD BREAK THOSE BONDS AS EASILY AS A WHEELER COULD ROLL DOWNHILL.
TRUE ENOUGH, BUT THEY'VE GOT THE SCARECROW AND THAT LION LOCKED UP SOMEWHERE IN TOWN, AND I FIGURE I'LL BIDE MY TIME TILL I CAN FIND 'EM AND GET US ALL OUT TOGETHER.
PARDON ME, GENTLEMEN. BREAK TIME IS OVER.
WE NEED YOU IN THE CITY.


SO, MISTER LAWMAN, CAN WE TRUST YOU WITH AN AXE TODAY, OR WILL THAT BE TOO MUCH OF A TEMPTATION FOR YOU?
I IMAGINE AN AXE WOULD BE A NICE ADDITION TO MY ALREADY BUBBLY PERSONALITY, JINJUR.
THAT'S GENERAL JINJUR, OLD MAN. WATCH YOURSELF OR I'LL HAVE YOU DOWN HERE DAY AND NIGHT...

KEEP THIS WITH YOU, MY DEAR. WITH JUST A SINGLE BLOW, WE WILL KNOW WHERE YOU ARE AND WILL COME TO YOUR AIDE.
WHY DON'T YOU HOLD ON TO THIS, SWEETIE?
"THE MICE'LL KEEP YA SAFE IF YOU EVER GET STUCK SOMEWHERE."
HERE SHE IS, GENERAL JINJUR.

HELLO, MY LITTLE SCARECROW. HOW ARE YOU TODAY?
NO DIFFERENT THAN USUAL, IT SEEMS. SHE JUST SITS AND LOOKS OUT THE WINDOW, DAY AFTER DAY.
SHE IS A UNIQUE CREATURE, LISSETTE. BUT ONE OF US NONETHELESS.

YOU DO KNOW YOU DON'T HAVE TO STAY IN HERE, LITTLE ONE. YOU NEED ONLY SWEAR ALLEGIANCE TO OUR CAUSE, AND YOU ARE FREE TO JOIN US AND SHARE IN OUR SPOILS.

YOUR FRIEND GALE HAS NOT RETURNED. YOU HAVE BEEN ABANDONED. CAN'T YOU SEE THAT?

BOTH OF YOU - WHY WOULD YOU WISH TO REMAIN LOYAL TO SUCH A WICKED YOUNG WOMAN?
EVEN YOU ARE WELCOME. FOR WHILE YOU MAY BE A BEAST, YOU CLEARLY HAVE STRAYED FROM NATURE'S INTENTIONS AND IDENTIFY MORE WITH THE FAIRER SEX, YES?
RRRMPH

SUIT YOURSELVES. THE OFFER IS ALWAYS OPEN. EVEN A THING LIKE YOU WILL EVENTUALLY GO MAD IN HERE, PUPPET. DAYS WILL TURN TO MONTHS, AND MONTHS TO YEARS.
KRACK
SO HOW LONG'S JINJUR BEEN IN CHARGE OF WHO SEES THE WIZARD?
THAT'S GENERAL JINJUR, PARTNER. YOU'D DO WELL TO REMEMBER THAT.
AS FOR YER QUESTION, SHE TOOK CHARGE A COUPLE YEARS AGO, SORTA OUT OF THE BLUE. OR, PURPLE, I GUESS YOU'D SAY, SINCE SHE'S A GILIKIN.
GILIKIN, HUH? THEY CAN'T SEEM TO KEEP THEIR OWN HOUSE IN ORDER. WHAT'S SHE DOIN' HERE?
THE WIZARD RESIDES IN THE EMERALD CITY. CONTROL THE CITY, CONTROL THE WIZARD.
IF YOU CONTROL THE WIZARD...

"...THEN YOU CONTROL OZ."

GENERAL JINJUR?
WHAT IS IT, LISSETTE?
YOU TOLD ME TO INFORM YOU WHEN WE FOUND ANY TOURMALINE, MA'AM.
SHOW ME WHERE.
FINALLY, PROOF THAT THERE IS MORE TO THE EMERALD CITY THAN MEETS THE EYE!

RRRMMM?
MMMFF.

BEAUTIFUL. WHO FOUND THIS?
THAT'D BE ME.
IT SEEMS YOU'VE PROVED YOUR WORTH IN A SINGLE DAYS WORK, LAWMAN.
WHAT EXACTLY DID I FIND, JINJUR?
GENERAL JINJUR!
IF YOU SAY SO.

REMOVE HIM! I DON'T WANT TO HEAR FROM HIM AGAIN!
WHAT NOW?
NOW WE CONCENTRATE OUR EFFORTS HERE.
YOU SURE THIS IS WHAT YOU WANT TO DO, GENERAL?
OUR COURSE OF ACTION WAS DECIDED THE DAY I TOOK CONTROL OF THIS CITY, PIPT.
NO MORE QUESTIONS. PUT YOUR TEAM TOGETHER.

SHK
SHK
SHK
SHK
SHK
GOODNESS, IT'S YOU! DO YOU NEED HELP?

I'LL NEED ASSISTANCE. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK. DON'T GO ANYWHERE!
THIS OUGHT TO COOL YOU OFF, BIG FELLA. GENERAL JINJUR IS THROUGH WITH YOUR ANTICS.
YOU CAN RUST AWAY IN YOUR CELL, FOR ALL SHE CARES.

SKRIIITCH
SKRIIITCH

HI THERE.
I'M TIP!
NEXT ISSUE:
OF MICE AND...WHEELERS!

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PREVIOUSLY IN THE WICKED WEST

The Emerald City has fallen under the control of General Jinjur. The emerald mines below the abandoned town are filled with the sounds of hammers, pick axes and anguish.

The Scarecrow has managed to find a way out of Jinjur's prison with the help of some little friends, but what about the Tin Man and the Lion? How will they free themselves from the clutches of Gneral Jinhur and her Army of Revolt?

Cover A: ALISSON BORGES - Cover B: NEI RUFFINO

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TOTO, YOU'RE LOOKING SO LOVELY! I'VE FINALLY GOTTEN ALL OF THE DUST AND BURRS FROM YOUR TRAVELS OUT OF YOUR COAT!
YOU'RE MY FIRST PET, AND I PROMISE I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU UNTIL MISS GALE COMES BACK FOR YOU!
PBBBTTT!
HA HA! LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT, DO YA?
IT'S SO NICE TO HAVE SOMEONE TO TAKE CARE OF THAT ACTUALLY NEEDS IT. I DID HAVE A PET BEFORE YOU, BUT HE WASN'T REAL. HE WAS JUST AN OLD SAW HORSE DADDY BROUGHT TO LIFE WITH HIS POWDER.
BUT HE WAS JUST WOOD AND DIDN'T REALLY NEED ME TO TAKE CARE OF HIM, SINCE HE DIDN'T NEED TO EAT, SLEEP OR EXERCISE.

HE WAS A NICE ENOUGH COMPANION, BUT NOT VERY BRAVE.
HE WASN'T MUCH HELP WHEN THE KALIDAH ATTACKED US ON THE BLUFF.

MAKE WAY!
WHY DON'T YOU JUMP OVER THE TREE WITH ME? CAN'T GIRLS JUMP?
HE WAS A NICE ENOUGH COMPANION, BUT NOT VERY BRAVE.

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN? HOW DOES A HOLE LIKE THIS JUST APPEAR WITHOUT ANYONE NOTICING?
IT WAS NOT THERE WHEN WE BROUGHT THE OLD MAN TO HIS CELL. WHEN WE TURNED AROUND, SHE WAS GONE AND THE HOLE WAS HERE.
THE KID'S GOT A CONNECTION TO NATURE, JINJUR. IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME 'TIL SHE GOT OUT.
SHE'S GONE. YOU AIN'T GONNA FIND HER NOW.

YOU'RE PRETTY SURE OF YOURSELF, OLD MAN.
I'VE SEEN ENOUGH TO HAVE A PRETTY GOOD OPINION.
NATURE MAY BE HER FRIEND, BUT IT WON'T STOP ME FROM GETTING HER BACK.
IF YOU SAY SO.
YOU LET ME KNOW HOW THAT WORKS OUT FOR YA.
SHE'S PROB'LY ALREADY BACK IN THE CORNFIELDS...
"...WHERE YOU GOT NO CHANCE TO FIND HER."

I GOTCHA NOW!
HOLD YER BREATH!
HEY...WHAT HAPPENED? WHY AREN'T YOU TRYING TO GET UP?
HEY!

HEY, I SAID I'M SORRY. WON'T YOU COME DOWN AND GET WARM?
AT LEAST TELL ME YOU'RE ALRIGHT.
YOU DON'T SAY MUCH, DO YA? WHO ARE YOU?
SHE IS A SCARE-CROW AND DOES NOT LIKE FIRE. SPEECH IS RARE AMONG THEIR KIND, AS WELL.
TAKE AIM!
NO, NO, NO! I MEAN YOU NO HARM!

FIRE!
THUP
THUP
THUP
THUP
THUP
THUP
THUP
THUP
THUP
THUP
THUP
THUP
THAT WASN'T VERY NICE.
WHAT ARE YOU?
JUST A SAWHORSE.
I FOLLOWED YOU FROM THE EMERALD CITY, WHEN YOU ALMOST RAN ME OVER IN THE STREETS.
I REMEMBER YOU! I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST A DEAD TREE IN THE ROAD.

I EVEN JUMPED RIGHT OVER YOU! SHE COULDN'T DO IT, THOUGH. GIRLS CAN'T JUMP THAT GOOD.
SOMEHOW, I THINK SHE COULD DO...
...WHATEVER SHE PUTS HER MIND TO.
SCRATCH SCRATCH
I GUESS JINJUR MEANT IT WHEN SHE SAID SHE DIDN'T WANT TA SEE ME AROUND ANYMORE.

NO ONE CAME TO DRAG ME BACK DOWN TO THE EMERALD MINES.
I'M GETTIN' A LITTLE STIFF, IT SEEMS. NOTHIN' A LITTLE ALE WOULDN'T FIX.
CRICK
NIGHTS AIN'T FOR ME, THAT'S FER SURE. NOT UNLESS THERE'S AN ALL-NIGHT TAVERN AROUND. WONDER WHAT IT'S LIKE TO ACTUALLY SLEEP.
DON'T SUPPOSE TALKIN' TO A LION IS GONNA GET ME ANY ANSWERS TA THAT QUESTION.
YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A GIRL. A SCARE-CROW
EH?
SHE MANAGED TO GET OUT OF HER CELL YESTERDAY THROUGH A HOLE DUG UNDER THE WALL.
SCARECROWS AIN'T DIGGERS, GENERALLY.
DAMN IT. THAT CHANGES THINGS A BIT...

"WHEELERS!"
I DIDN'T SAY SHE DUG HERSELF OUT. I JUST SAID THAT WAS THE ESCAPE METHOD. IT'S ENTIRELY POSSIBLE SHE HAD ACCOMPLICES, BUT ALL I AM CONCERNED WITH IS THE SCARECROW'S RETURN.
IF YOU FIND HER WITH ANYBODY ELSE, YOU CAN DO WHAT YOU LIKE WITH THEM.
THAT SOUNDS MOST AGREEABLE, GENERAL.
I'D LIKE TO THANK YA FER THINKIN' OF US IN YER TIME OF NEED. WE ENJOY DOING FAVORS FOR FOLKS LIKE YERSELF IN EXCHANGE FOR FAVORS IN RETURN.

THIS IS NO FAVOR, GRONGER. THIS IS A BOUNTY. BRING HER BACK AND THIS BAG OF GOLD COINS IS YOURS.
THANK YA KINDLY, BUT WE DON'T HAVE MUCH USE FER YER COINS. WE WILL ASK YA FOR A FAVOR ONE DAY AS PAYMENT FOR THIS LITTLE HUNT OF YERS.
GRONGER, LOOK.
WELL, WELL. IT SEEMS WE'VE GOT THE TRAIL ALREADY, GENERAL.
TWO SETS, PLUS A BUNCHA RODENTS...
...AND THEY TELL US WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW.

THEIR TRACKS LEAD TO THE FOREST. THAT'S NOT OUR NATURAL TRACKING ZONE, GENERAL.
DAMN BOUNTY HUNTERS. KID'S GONNA NEED HELP.
SEEING AS HOW THE FOREST'LL REQUIRE EXTRA TIME, THIS'LL COST YA A BIT LARGER FAVOR, I'M AFRAID, GENERAL.
JUST BRING HER BACK. ALIVE.
YER WISH IS OUR COMMAND, GENERAL.
NICE THING 'BOUT SCARECROWS IS THAT "ALIVE" DON'T NECESSARILY MEAN IN ONE PIECE.
HA HA HA!

GUESS THAT'S THE SIGN I WAS WAITIN' FOR.
TIME TA SKEDADDLE.
CRICK CRICK
ALRIGHT...
...HERE GOES NOTHIN'.

KRAWG
SEEMS EVERYONE'S DOWN BELOW THIS MORNIN'.
TIME TO GO, PARTNER.
DID YOU HAVE A GOOD MORNING WALK, TOTO? WOULD YOU LIKE SOME BREAKFAST?

LET'S GET YOU SOME NICE OATS AND A BUCKET OF WATER.
GIDDY UP, CHITNANGO!
ROAR!
AHHH!

THANK YOU, MA'AM. I'LL TAKE THAT.
TOTO! COME BACK!
TOTO... PLEASE COME BACK. DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE.
:SNIFFLE.:
MAYBE THE SAW-HORSE WILL PLAY WITH ME.
SAW-HORSE? WHERE HAVE YOU GONE?

YEAH!
HOLD ON, YOU TWO!
KRACK
OOF!
WOW. WHAT HAPPENED?
I'M SORRY. I SEEM TO HAVE CRACKED A LEG.
WOW. THAT'S A BAD LOOKING WOUND. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO GO ABOUT FIXING THAT.
EH? YOU HAVE AN IDEA?

WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW! IT FEELS GOOD AS NEW!
THANK YOU, MY FRIEND.

WE'LL HAVE TO FIND A MORE PERMANENT SOLUTION, BUT FOR NOW YOU SHOULD BE FINE. SO, WHERE TO NOW?
SOUTH? ANY PARTICULAR REASON?
SOUTH IT IS, THEN. I JUST HOPE YOU HAVE AN ACTUAL PLAN AND AREN'T JUST FOLLOWING THE WIND.
I WOULD FOLLOW HER TO THE DEADLY DESERT IF SHE WISHED IT.
YOU KNOW WHAT? I THINK I WOULD, TOO!
NEXT ISSUE: TO THE SOUTH!

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PREVIOUSLY IN THE WICKED WEST

The Scarecrow has escaped the Emerald City with the help of the field mice and their human companion, Tip.

General Jinjur was less than pleased with the failure of her prison guards and decided to bring in some professionals. The Wheelers.

The Tin Man has broken out of prison and has teamed up with the Lion and found Tip and Scarecrow with their new friend the Sawhorse as they head south...

Cover A: ALISSON BORGES - Cover B: NEI RUFFINO

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I'M SO HUNGRY! WHEN CAN WE STOP TO EAT? DOES ANYONE HAVE ANYTHING I CAN EAT? CAN WE STOP SO I CAN PICK AN APPLE AT LEAST?
PLEASE! JUST STOP FOR A--
PAP

WELL THAT WAS RUDE.
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
I'M FINE, BUT WHO THREW THIS AT ME?
WHO WAS IT? WHO HIT ME WITH THIS APPLE?
OOFFF!
I DID!
PAP

NOW PICK UP YOUR APPLES AND EAT THEM! HOPEFULLY THAT WILL KEEP YOU QUIET AS YOU ROAM THE FOREST AIMLESSLY.
YOU COULD HAVE JUST OFFERED THEM TO ME INSTEAD OF THROWING THEM.
NOW WHERE WOULD THE FUN IN THAT BE?
LEAVE THEM BE.

THIS THING MAY NOT BE THE SHARPEST, BUT A POWERFUL SWING GOES A LONG WAY.
YEAH, YEAH. IT'S GOOD TA SEE YOU AGAIN...
KID?
LION WOULD STILL BE IN A CAGE IF IT WASN'T FER ME.
I DON'T THINK SHE CARES.
MAYBE SHE CAN RIDE THE *LION* NOW INSTEAD OF ME. MY LEGS ARE AWFULLY TIRED.

SAY, DID THAT SAWHORSE NEXT TA ME JUST TALK, OR AM I DELIRIOUS?
IT TALKED. IT WON'T SHUT UP, IN FACT.
JUST CHECKIN'.
SO WHO'RE YOU AND HOW'D YA GET CAUGHT UP IN THIS?
NOT A WHAT. A WHO. A GILLIKAN SORCERESS WHO REALLY WASN'T TOO KEEN ON ME FOR SOME REASON.
NAME'S TIPPETARIUS. JUST CALL ME TIP. I WAS MOMBI'S SLAVE TILL I RAN AWAY WITH THE FIELD MICE A FEW MONTHS AGO.
WHAT'S A MOMBI?
"I CAUGHT HER MAKING UP A POTION ONE NIGHT THAT SMELLED HORRIBLE, AND SHE WAS MUMBLING TO HERSELF ABOUT ME."
THE BOY COMES OF AGE AND WILL NOT BE KEPT. HE RUNS WITH THOSE BLASTED FIELD MICE DAY IN AND DAY OUT. I'LL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIM ANY LONGER!

WHAT WAS SHE COOKIN' UP?
NO CLUE. BUT I SURE WASN'T GONNA HANG AROUND AND FIND OUT. I JUMPED OUT MY WINDOW THAT NIGHT. THE MICE TOOK ME IN AND NOW I'M PART OF THEIR TRIBE.
SO, SEEMS YER HEADIN' SOUTH. ANY PARTICULAR REASON?
'CAUSE SHE SAID SO.

WORKS FER ME. AND I THINK I GOT A GOOD IDEA WHY SHE'S HEADIN' THAT WAY TO BEGIN WITH.
DON'T REALLY MATTER AS LONG AS WE GET MOVIN'...
THE FOREST'LL SLOW THE WHEELERS DOWN, BUT THEY'LL TRACK US TO THE EDGES OF OZ ITSELF IF NEED BE.
WE'RE GONNA NEED SOME HELP.
I'VE BROUGHT YOU A LITTLE EXTRA HELP, GENTLE-MEN.
THESE YOUNG LADIES APPARENTLY COULDN'T HANDLE THE JOB OF JAILER, SO I THOUGHT THEY MIGHT DO MORE GOOD DOWN HERE.

YES, MA'AM.
THIS PIT HAD BETTER BE CLEARED BY THIS EVENING OR YOU WILL BOTH RETURN HERE IN THE MORNING. AM I CLEAR?
OF COURSE, GENERAL.
THIS PLACE IS FILTHY. I'LL HAVE TO TALK TO PIPT ABOUT A DIRT DEFLECTING POTION.
STAND CLEAR!
KA-BOOOM

=COUGH COUGH=
=COUGH COUGH=
PIPT!
DAMN IT PIPT, WHERE ARE YOU?
=COUGH=
WE NEED TO TALK.

EXCUSE ME, BUT YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ANY OF THE MICE AROUND, HAVE YOU?
CAN'T SAY I HAVE, KID.
HOR HAVE I.
"I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE UP TO. IT'S NOT LIKE THE TRIBE TO LET ME WANDER OFF."
I'M SURE THEY WILL BE FINE, TIP.

"MICE ARE VERY CLEVER CREATURES.
"TOUGH TOO. I'M SURE THEY ARE SAFE.
"AND THESE MICE ARE ALSO WELL ARMED. TRUST ME, I LEARNED THAT FIRSTHAND!*
*SEE WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SAWHORSE LAST ISSUE!
"I'M SURE THEY ARE PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF TAKING CARE OF THEMSELVES."
STEADY... STEADY...

NOW!
SQUEEE!
YAAAY! HALT, WHEELERS!

DAMN FOREST IS RAININ' RATS!
YAH!
BASH
HE'S UNDER ATTACK.
BY MICE?
WE GOTTA HELP HIM.

HOLD TIGHT, GRONGER!
WHAT THE--?
HEEEEY!
YOU ALRIGHT?
DO I LOOK LIKE I'M OKAY? IJIT! GO HELP GRONGER AND THEN GET ME OUTTA HERE!
MY PLEASURE.

QUICKLY!
EVERYONE READY!
HEAVE!
NOW!

CLAK
CLAK
CLAK
YAAAAAAAA!
WHAM
ENUFFA THIS.
KA-CHK
KA-CHAK

POW
POW
POW
POW
POW
POW
RAT STEW ON THE MENU TONIGHT, BOYS!
WOOO! YOU GIT 'EM, BOSS!
THEN MAYBE GIT ME?
HOLD TIGHT, BOYS. LOOKS LIKE THE RATS HAD ENOUGH AND JUMPED SHIP. HEH HEH!

Y'ALL ARE A DIGRACE. LETTIN' SOME RODENTS HANDLE YA SO EASY.
READY... SET...
NO, WAIT FOR--
--MEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!

HUH?
EEEEEEEEE!
BASH
HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!
WE CAN'T GO BACK, TIP.
WHAT ABOUT THE MICE?
CAN'T SAY, BUT THAT'S A LOTTA NOISE. I GOTTA THINK THAT THEY'RE HOLDIN' THE WHEELERS OFF, BUT IT MIGHT NOT BUY US MUCH TIME. WE GOTTA KEEP MOVIN', PARTNER.

ALRIGHT. LET'S GET THIS GIRL WHERE SHE'S TRYIN' TA GO. BUT I GOTTA ASK A FAVOR.

YAAAAAA!
GO, LION!
AIM THAT LION SOUTH, BOY! AND HOLD ON FER YER DAMN LIFE!
NEXT ISSUE:
WHAT'S PAST IS PRESENT.

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Kari Castor

PREVIOUSLY IN THE WICKED WEST

General Jinjur has sent the Wheelers after the Scarewcrow and her friends. But thanks to the field mice, the small band of escapees has eluded the bounty hunters...for now.

The mystery of Dorothy Gale and the Witch of the West is still talked about, but answers seem no closer to being revealed. Perhaps the Witch of the South could help.

Cover A: Alisson Borges - Cover B: Nei Ruffino - Cover C: Natali Sanders - Cover D: Connie Valentina
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EMERALD FOREST. SOUTHERN REGION.
WE SHOULD HIT THE EDGE OF THE FOREST ANY DAY NOW, I'D THINK.
FORESTS IN OZ LET YOU OUT WHEN THEY'RE GOOD AND READY.

NEVER SHOULDA LET THAT FOOL HORSE GET AWAY FROM ME.
"OL' BOY'S GOT MORE LOYALTY IN HIM THAN MOST PEOPLE I KNOW.
"AT LEAST I KNOW RIGHT WHERE HE'S HEADED."

CREEEAAAK
THOOM
SNFF
SNFF
CLIP CLOP
CLIP CLOP
"SURE HOPE TOTO GETS A GOOD RECEPTION."

WHAT'S A TOTO?
IT'S A HORSE.
YOURS?
NO.
JUST BELONGED TO SOMEONE I KNEW.
A FRIEND.

THE EMERALD CITY. JINJUR'S PRIVATE QUARTERS.
HOW LONG HAVE WE BEEN FRIENDS, LISSETTE?
SINCE WE WERE KNEE HIGH TO A MUNCHKIN, GENERAL.
I'LL HAVE TO COMMEND PIPT FOR THIS WATER WARMING CONTRAPTION HE BUILT.
I REMEMBER MILKING THE COWS FOR YOUR FATHER, AND YOU TELLING ME STORIES OF WHAT YOU'D DO IF YOU RULED OZ.
OF COURSE NOT. YOU ARE MY VERY BEST FRIEND, AND I WANT ONLY THE BEST FOR YOU, AS YOU HAVE ALWAYS WISHED THE BEST FOR OZ.
IN ALL THOSE YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP, I DON'T THINK I EVER RECALL YOU SIDING AGAINST ME.
DO YOU?
YOU ALWAYS FELT AS THOUGH YOU WERE MEANT FOR SOMETHING MORE. SOMETHING SPECIAL. AND I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED IN YOU.
YOU'VE ALWAYS LOOKED OUT FOR ME. IT'S ONLY FAIR THAT I DO THE SAME FOR YOU.

AND NOW YOU ARE THE QUEEN OF THE EMERALD CITY...
...AND THERE IS NO ONE BRAVE ENOUGH TO CHALLENGE YOU...
...NOT EVEN THE WIZARD.
THE WIZARD. INDEED. IF EVER OH EVER...
I AM OZ!
WHO ARE YOU?

OH, MIGHTY OZ, I AM MERELY JINJUR.
AND YOU COME HERE FOR WHAT PURPOSE?
PLEASE, SIR. THE KALIDAHS - THEY HAVE KILLED THE PEOPLE FROM OUR TOWN FOR GENERATIONS ON END. THEY PREY ON US, THOUGH WE WISH THEM NO HARM AND WORK TO STAY OUT OF THEIR WAY.
AND NOW THEY HAVE TAKEN MY PARENTS. MY FAMILY. THEY ARE DEAD BECAUSE OF THOSE HORRIBLE CREATURES!
AND WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO?
FFFFFFFFFFFF
KILL THEM! DESTROY THEM ALL! THEY ARE EVIL AND SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO LIVE AMONG US!
FOOLISH CHILD. YOU ASK ME TO BE NO BETTER THAN THEY.
WERE I TO DESTROY THE KALIDAHS AS A SPECIES, I WOULD BECOME THE EVIL YOU BELIEVE THEM TO BE!

BEGONE!
GENERAL? ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
HE REJECTED ME. HE MOCKED ME. I WAS JUST A CHILD.
I REMEMBER. YOU WERE HEARTBROKEN.
BUT NOW THE WIZARD AND HIS SECRETS ARE UNDER MY CONTROL, AND I WILL USE THEM BOTH AS I SEE FIT.
HAVE MY HORSE PREPARED, LISSETTE. I FEEL LIKE GETTING SOME FRESH AIR.
YES, GENERAL.

EMERALD FOREST.
THE MICE TOLD ME STORIES OF GALE. THEY GAVE HER A WHISTLE SO SHE COULD CONTACT 'EM IF SHE WAS IN TROUBLE.
GALE GAVE IT TO THE SCARECROW. THAT'S WHY YA FOUND HER INSTEAD OF GALE.
THE MICE SAID GALE WENT TO SEE THE WIZARD. DID SHE MAKE IT?
THAT SHE DID. ALL OF US DID. GOT OURSELVES AMBUSHED IN THE PROCESS. FIRST BY THE WITCH OF THE WEST, AND THEN JINJUR.
EXCUSE ME. GENERAL JINJUR.
WHAT HAPPENED TO GALE?
DON'T EXACTLY KNOW. DANG MONKEYS FLEW IN AND GRABBED HER, THEN THE TREES GRABBED US AND HELD US 'TIL JUNJUR'S GOONS SHOWED UP.*
AIN'T SEEN OR HEARD FROM HER SINCE.
*ISSUE #5 OF THE LEGENDARY MINISERIES!

SHOULDN'T WE FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED?
I RECKON THAT'S WHY THE KID'S TAKIN' US SOUTH.
SEEIN' AS HOW THE LOCALS DOWN THERE ARE A BIT SNOOTY AND HIGH ON THEMSELVES, THERE'S ONLY ONE REASON TO HEAD SOUTH, IN MY OPINION.
WHAT'S THAT?

TO SEE THE WITCH.

EMERALD CITY. HORSE PADDOCK.
HOW LONG WILL YOU BE GONE, GENERAL?
NO MORE THAN TWO OR THREE DAYS.
I HAVE AN ITCH I NEED SCRATCHED, AND I NEED TO GET AWAY FROM THIS PLACE FOR A BIT.
KEEP PIPT AND HIS TEAM WORKING ON THE TOURMALINE WALLS. WE NEED TO FIND THE REST OF IT.
OF COURSE, GENERAL.
YAH!

I'D FOR-
GOTTEN HOW
MUCH I ENJOY
RIDING!

WHAT--?
WHERE THE HECK DID SHE COME FROM?
DON'T MATTER. GRAB A FEW MORE AND LET'S GIT.
GENTLEMEN. MAY I ASK WHAT IT IS YOU ARE DOING?
BEAT IT, FRAIL!
I THINK I CAN CARRY TWO MORE, BUT THAT'S IT. THEY'S HEAVY!
THIS AIN'T GOT NOTHIN' TA DO WITH YOU.
TAP TAP
HUH?

HEY! YOU CRAZY BROAD! WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'?
YOU FOOLS ARE STEALING NOT ONLY FROM THE EMERALD CITY, BUT FROM OZ ITSELF!
THIS ROAD IS A BEACON OF HOPE AND FREEDOM. IT'S DUNG PILES LIKE YOU WHO ARE DESTROYING OZ, BRICK BY BRICK, AND I WILL NOT STAND FOR IT!
KRACK
BIG WORDS FROM THE TOWN TART. WHATCHA GONNA DO TA STOP ME?

YOU-- =COUGH COUGH= YOU HI--
YA HIT LIKE-- =COUGH= -- HIT LIKE A GI--
KRAK

ARE YOU THROUGH?
GUHHH...
BOTH OF YOU WALK YOURSELVES DOWN TO THE EMERALD CITY AND LOOK FOR LISSETTE. SHE WILL PUT YOUR DIGGING SKILLS TO WORK.
MAKE TRACKS, GENTLEMEN. DON'T LET ME CATCH YOU LOLLYGAGGING.
AND UNDERSTAND THAT THOUGH I MAY NOT BE NEAR, YOU ARE ALWAYS BEING WATCHED!

WHAT'S WRONG? WHY'RE WE STOPPING?
I FIGURE SHE'S GOT THE SAME FEELING I GOT.
WE AIN'T ALONE.
WHAT IS IT? WHEELERS? KALIDAHS? AND WHY DOES IT SEEM LIKE WE AIN'T GETTIN' ANYWHERE?
TOLD YA ALREADY. THIS FOREST'LL LET US OUT WHEN IT'S GOOD AND READY.

NOT ONLY WILL THE FOREST HOLD YOU...
...IT WILL ALERT US TO YOUR APPROACH...
...SO THAT WE MAY STOP YOU BEFORE YOU REACH THE CASTLE.

WHO ARE YOU?
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
JUST FOLLOWING THE GIRL, LADIES. SHE WAS DEAD SET 'BOUT HEADIN' THIS WAY, AND WE'RE JUST MAKIN' SURE SHE GOT HERE SAFE.
AND WHAT IS SO *SPECIAL* ABOUT HER THAT YOU WOULD FOLLOW HER?
THE LIST SEEMS TA BE GROWIN' THE LONGER I'M AROUND HER.

ENOUGH TALKING!
THERE'S WORK TO BE DONE!
C'MERE, KID!
NOW THAT I HAVE EVERYONE'S ATTENTION...

LET'S ALL GO SEE THE WITCH!
NEXT ISSUE: REVELATIONS!

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COLORIST
The Legend of OZ
THE WICKED WEST
KATE

A twister from over the rainbow, a fateful accident and an epic journey along a road made of yellow bricks. You know the story.

Or do you?

In the Emerald Forest, a group consisting of a scarecrow, a lion, a sawhorse a tin man and a young boy head south. Their goal is to find Glinda the Good and how they can convince her to help find their missing friend, Gale. Jack Pumpkinhead, however, has other ideas.

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BIG DOG INK

BASED ON CHARACTERS CREATED BY L. FRANK BAUM

The Legend of OZ: The WICKED WEST

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PREVIOUSLY IN THE WICKED WEST

General Jinjur has taken a leave of absence from the Emerald City as the digging continues underneath it.

The Tin Man and company still travel the Emerald Forest headed south but have stumbled across not only Glinda's personal guard, but also a mysterious figure known only as Jack Pumpkinhead.

COVER A: ALISSON BORGES - COVER B: NEI RUFFINO - COVER C: SKETCH COVER

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OZ'S SOUTHERN DISTRICT. GLINDA'S JURISDICTION.
THE COLORS OF THE RAINBOW ARE AT MY FINGERTIPS, YET I ALWAYS SEEM TO RETURN TO RED.
PERHAPS IT IS SIMPLY MEANT TO BE.
WHAT IN PASTORIA'S NAME IS GOING ON OUT THERE?
HALT! YOU CANNOT ENTER HERE!
DENY US, AND I'LL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENS TO THIS BOY!

NOW HOLD YER HORSES, LADIES. WE AIN'T TRAVELIN' WITH THIS LUNATIC. YOU SAW HIM JUMP US IN THE FOREST WITH YER OWN EYES.
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?
THE MEANING IS TO GAIN AN AUDIENCE WITH GLINDA THE GOOD. IF THAT AIN'T GONNA HAPPEN, THEN THIS BOY'S GONNA START LOSIN' FINGERS ONE BY ONE!
YOU'LL NOT HARM A SINGLE HAIR ON THAT BOY! THE PENALTY FOR MISTREATING HIM IN ANY WAY WILL BE SEVERE BEYOND YOUR IMAGINING!

MA'AM, THERE'S NOTHIN' YOU CAN DO TO ME THAT WOULD EVER COMPARE TO WHAT I'VE ALREADY DONE TO MYSELF.
YOU SPEAK THE TRUTH. THE PEARL CONFIRMS IT. YOU SEEM TO HAVE ME AT A DISADVANTAGE, STRANGER.
RELEASE THE BOY, AND I WILL GRANT YOU AN AUDIENCE.
AGREED.

THERE, NOW. SAFE AND SOUND.
ANDORIA, SEE THIS GENTLEMAN INTO MY SITTING ROOM. I WILL BE THERE SHORTLY.
YES, MA'AM.
YOU ALRIGHT, TIP?
SURE, WHY WOULDN'T I BE?
OH, I DON'T KNOW. SEEIN' AS HOW YOU WERE ABDUCTED AND HELD HOSTAGE, I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU WERE AT LEAST A BIT UNCOMFORTABLE.
I APOLOGIZE FOR MY CONCERN. IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.
JACK WOULDN'T HURT ME. WE'VE SEEN OUR SHARE OF SCRAPES BEFORE, AND HE ALWAYS WATCHED MY BACK.
SO, YA'LL ARE IN CAHOOTS, HUH? IF HE'S SUCH A GOOD GUY, WHY'S HE NEED TO CON HIS WAY INTO AN AUDIENCE WITH GLINDA?

IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
AS I TOLD YOU EARLIER, STRANGER, YOU SEEM TO HAVE ME AT A DISADVANTAGE. HAVE WE MET BEFORE?
I WASN'T TALKING TO YOU.
WHO THEN? THOSE IN THE PAINTING? I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT YOU WOULD HAVE A CONNECTION OF ANY KIND WITH THEM.
THAT'S PRECISELY WHY I HAD TO GO THROUGH THE CHARADE OF KIDNAPPING THE BOY TO GET IN HERE.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
TIP AND I ARE OLD ACCOMPLICES.
I'M SURE YOU MEAN ACQUAINTANCES. BUT WHY THE PRETENSE OF ABDUCTING HIM THEN, JUST TO GAIN AN AUDIENCE? WHY NOT SIMPLY REQUEST ONE THROUGH THE PROPER CHANNELS?
I CHOSE MY WORDS CAREFULLY, WITCH.
SIMPLE FACT IS, TIP AND I ARE FRIENDS, AND IF I HAD TOLD YOU OR YOUR GUARD WHO I WAS THROUGH YOUR "NORMAL CHANNELS," YOU'D NEVER HAVE LET ME PAST THE FRONT GATE.

AND TO SAY I HAD A CONNECTION TO KING PASTORIA AND HIS FAMILY WOULD BE A GRAVE UNDER-STATEMENT.

THE EMERALD CITY. WESTERN FARM-LANDS.
MOVE QUICKLY, JINJUR!
I CAN'T GO ANY FASTER.
YOU HAVE TO TRY!
JUST DON'T LOOK BEHIND YOU!
ROAR!
OH, NO! QUICKLY, JINJUR! INTO THE TREES!

CLIMB AS HIGH AS YOU CAN, JINJUR!
I AM, MOMMA!
GET AWAY FROM ME!
MOMMA!
ROAR!
NO! AAAHH!
MOMMA!

I KNOW YOU'RE STILL THERE.
I CAN FEEL YOUR EYES ON ME.
I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU ANYMORE.

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS MOMENT MY WHOLE LIFE.
AND YOU WILL CONTINUE TO WAIT, CHILD.
MOMBI!
FWOOOSH
THE DEAL YOU HAVE STRUCK IS NOT YET COMPLETED. YOU STILL HAVE MUCH WORK TO DO BEFORE THEY WILL COME TO YOUR AID.

THEY'RE ALREADY HERE, MOMBI. I CAN SEE THEM IN EVERY ROCK!
HERE THEY ARE, BUT HELP YOU THEY WILL NOT. NOT UNTIL YOU HAVE UPHELD YOUR PART OF THE BARGAIN.
STAND ASIDE, MOMBI! WE'VE ALREADY DISCOVERED THE TOURMALINE!* THEY KNOW THAT! IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME NOW!
*FIND OUT WHERE IN ISSUE #1!
THEY KILLED MY ENTIRE FAMILY!
I WATCHED THOSE DAMNED KALIDAHS KILL MY MOTHER NOT TWENTY FEET FROM ME! THEY ARE PURE EVIL, AND IT IS MY SWORN DUTY TO ERADICATE THEM!
YOU WILL HAVE YOUR OPPORTUNITY FOR REVENGE, JINJUR.
GENERAL JINJUR...

GENERAL. OF COURSE, MY DEAR.
NOW, STAND CLOSE.
FWOOOSH!

PBBBTT!
FWOOOSH

THERE WE ARE. SAFE AND SOUND.
NOW BACK TO WORK, CHILD. LET'S MAKE GOOD ON YOUR WORD.
I APPRECIATE YOU SETTING ME BACK ON TRACK, MOMBI.
WE SHALL SPEAK NO FURTHER OF IT.

WELCOME HOME, MY FRIEND.
PBBBT!

OZ. SOUTH. GLINDA'S CASTLE.
STORM'S COMIN'.
I CAN SMELL IT IN THE AIR.
WONDER HOW LONG THIS MEETIN' IS GONNA TAKE. JACK AND GLINDA HAVE BEEN IN THERE MORE THAN A SPELL.
DON'T WORRY, OLD MAN. JACK'LL SET THAT WITCH STRAIGHT.
STRAIGHT ABOUT WHAT, EXACTLY?
WELL...

BIG HELP YOU ARE. IF THE KID HADN'T TAKEN SUCH A SHINE TO YOU, I'D HAVE BOOTED YOU FROM THIS PROCESSION DAYS AGO.
YEAH, WELL...
SHE'S ALRIGHT, I GUESS.
MY FRIENDS, IF YOU WOULD BE SO KIND AS TO JOIN US. THERE IS MUCH TO DISCUSS.
PLEASE JOIN GLINDA IN HER STUDY.

TARNATION.
WELCOME, MY FRIENDS.
NOT ALL. BUT MANY.
YOU GOT EVERY BOOK EVER MADE IN HERE!

LEAVE US. I WILL CALL IF YOU ARE NEEDED.
YES, MA'AM.
EVERYTHING GO ALRIGHT, JACK?
WE'LL SEE, TIP.
I'M GONNA HAVE TO CONVINCE HER MY STORY IS TRUE. I MIGHT NEED YOUR HELP.
YOU KNOW YOU CAN COUNT ON YOUR OL' BUDDY TIP!
THIS AIN'T A STORY YOU'VE HEARD BEFORE. I HOPE YOU WON'T THINK LESS OF ME.

THERE'S NOTHIN' YOU COULD TELL ME THAT'D MAKE ME THINK LESS OF YOU, JACK.
LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE A FRIEND.
HEY! WHAT'S THE IDEA?!
COPYCAT!
MAY WE START, JACK?

OF COURSE. UNDERSTAND THAT WHAT I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU ALL IS SOMETHING NOT HEARD OF IN OZ FOR NEAR A DECADE.
I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU ALL WHAT HAPPENED THE NIGHT PRINCESS OZMA WENT MISSING...
...AND IT'S NOT THE STORY YOU THINK YOU KNOW!
NEXT ISSUE: THE PRINCESS AND THE PUMPKIN.

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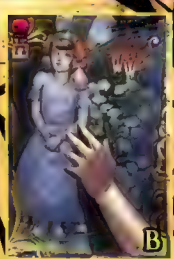
PREVIOUSLY IN THE WICKED WEST

Jack Pumpkinhead has revealed himself and has taken Tip hostage in an effort to gain an audience with Glinda the Good.

At the Emerald City, Jinjur has taken a personal leave of absence to reconnect with her purpose in the emerald mines beneath the city.



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DEARIE! YOU HAVE GOT TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.
SURELY THERE ARE BETTER WAYS TO LEARN...

HEY, NOW...
...DON'T KNOCK IT 'TIL YOU'VE TRIED IT.
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, MY DEAR?
BLESS YOUR SWEET LITTLE HEART.
SHE'S A QUEER SORT, ISN'T SHE?
REAL PRETTY, THOUGH.
SOME MIGHT SAY.
SOME MIGHT SAY.
JACK, IF YOU PLEASE...

WUZ GOIN' ON? WUZ HAPPENIN'?
IS JACK GONNA TELL A STORY?
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL WITH JACK'S TALL TALES?
I DON'T TWIG THE APPEAL.
I WALKED THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD WITH JACK FOR A SPELL, AND LET ME TELL YOU - SPINNING YARNS IS WHAT THAT FELLA'S SECOND BEST AT.
GRRRZ
WELL? GO ON, THEN.
WHAT?
YOU GOT A SCORPION IN YOUR BOOT, OR SOME-THIN'?
WHAT'S THAT CROOKED-TOOTHED FRIEND OF YOURS BEST AT?

GAHH!
CHINK!
I SEE.
WELL...
DON'T PAY ME NO MIND. GET ON WITH IT.
WELL, ALRIGHT...

"THIS IS THE STORY OF THE MARVELOUS LAND OF OZ, BEING AN ACCOUNT OF THE ADVENTURES OF THE OUTLAW WHO CAME TO BE KNOWN AS "JACK PUMPKINHEAD"...
"...AND ALSO, THE STRANGE EXPERIENCES OF HIS TRUSTY SIDEKICK, THE FREED SLAVE, TIP--"
"THAT'S ME!"
"...THE FREED SLAVE NAMED TIP, WHO FOUGHT HARD FOR HIS INDEPENDENCE, AND IN SO DOING TAUGHT AN ARMY OF MISFITS THAT ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE."

"BEFORE THE MODERN ERA OF CONSTANT CONFLICT AND BORDERS ARBITRARILY DRAWN IN BLOOD, OZ WAS UNIFIED UNDER THE PEACEFUL YET STERN RULE OF KING PASTORIA.
"IN CHARGE OF DEFENDING THIS PEACE WAS AN ELITE GROUP OF ROYAL GUARDS - WARRIORS TO THE STATION BORN FROM ALL OVER OZ WHO WERE CAPABLE OF AWE-INSPIRING FEATS OF VIOLENCE, BUT POSSESSED THE WISDOM NOT TO COMMIT THEM UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.

"THEIR RANKS WERE FULL OF HEROES, BUT THE GOOD KING PASTORIA FAVORED TWO ABOVE ALL, FOR THEY WERE TASKED WITH PROTECTING THE MOST PRECIOUS TREASURE IN ALL OF OZ...
TAP
TAP
TAP

"THE KING'S DAUGHTER, PRINCESS OZMA."
G'NIGHT, PRINCESS SQUEAKERS.

"THE GUARDS RESENTED THEIR DUTIES, CONSIDERING THEIR POSITION CEREMONIAL AND THEMSELVES MERELY ORNAMENTAL.
THIS IS HUMILIATING. WE SHOULD BE STATIONED IN THE DEADLY DESERT, GUARDING THE REALM FROM THE FORCES OF THE NOME KING... NOT PLAYING GLORIFIED BABYSITTER FOR SOME SPOILED BRAT.
I HEAR YOU, BROTHER.
SURELY IT'S IN OUR KINGDOM'S BEST INTERESTS IF WE LEAVE OUR POST FOR A SPELL AND REINVIGORATE OURSELVES IN THE COURTYARD?
IN FACT, IF SOME SCOUNDREL WERE TO TRY AN' SNEAK IN AND STEAL OUR BELOVED PRINCESS' INNOCENCE, WE'D SPOT HIM EASIER OUTSIDE - AND KILL HIM TWICE BEFORE SHE HEARD THE CLATTER OF HIS SPURS.
THAT MAKES ABOUT AS MUCH SENSE AS ANYTHING I'VE EVER HEARD.
"DURING ONE SLOW NIGHT (IN A LINE OF SEVERAL HUNDRED), THEY ABANDONED THEIR POST TO SPAR IN THE COURTYARD, FOR FEAR THAT GOING SO LONG WITHOUT A SCRAP HAD DULLED THEIR FIGHTING INSTINCTS.
GIVE YOUR BROTHER-IN-ARMS A SIP OF THE OL' WHO-HIT-JOHN, YOU BIG LUG.
"THEY WOULD COME TO REGRET THEIR DECISION FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES.
"THEY, AND ALL OF OZ..."

"THERE IS A TYPE OF PERSON WHO HATES PEACE. NOT BECAUSE THEY FEEL IT'S UNDESERVED, OR BECAUSE THEY FEAR COMPLACENCY - BUT BECAUSE THEY RESENT THEIR ROLE IN IT.
"THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO CRAVE POWER FOR POWER'S SAKE. NOT BECAUSE THEY HAVE A PARTICULARLY GOOD IDEA FOR WHAT TO DO WITH IT, BUT BECAUSE THEY ASSUME THAT EVERYONE IS AS EVIL AND UNIMAGINATIVE AS THEY ARE, AND THUS FEAR ANYONE WITH MORE AGENCY IN THE WORLD THAN THEM.
"THE ONE WHO STOLE OZMA FROM MY LIFE IS SUCH A PERSON.
=WEAUGHS=
=TEAUGHS=
FWOOOSH
FWIT
FWIT
FWIT
FWIT
"WHEN I DISCOVER WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR STEALING THE PRINCESS, THEY'LL MORE THAN RUE THE DAY THEY STEPPED FOOT IN HER QUARTERS."
KEEP QUIET, YOU FLEA-RIDDEN MONSTROSITIES!
YOU'LL HAVE YOUR FILL OF MINDLESS VIOLENCE SOON ENOUGH.
TONIGHT, WE'RE TAKING A MORE SURGICAL APPROACH. WE'RE TRADING IN OUR SABERS FOR SCALPELS...

...AND CUTTING OUT THE HEART OF OZ ITSELF.
DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING...?
THIS JOB HAS GOT YOU MUCH TOO HIGH STRUNG, PARTNER. YOU'VE GOT TO LEARN TO RELAX ON OCCASION.
I'M A SOLIDER. FIGHTING IS HOW I RELAX.
THAT'S NO WAY TO LIVE. IN FACT, THAT'S HOW TYRANTS ARE BORN.
STRUGGLE FOR THE SAKE OF STRUGGLE IS MEANINGLESS. WE, AS A SPECIES, HAVE TO LEARN TO ACCEPT PEACE AS OUR NATURAL STATE, OR WE'RE DOOMED BEFORE WE EVEN REALLY BEGIN.
YOU'RE RIGHT, I SUPPOSE...I TWIG WHAT YOU'RE GETTIN' AT.

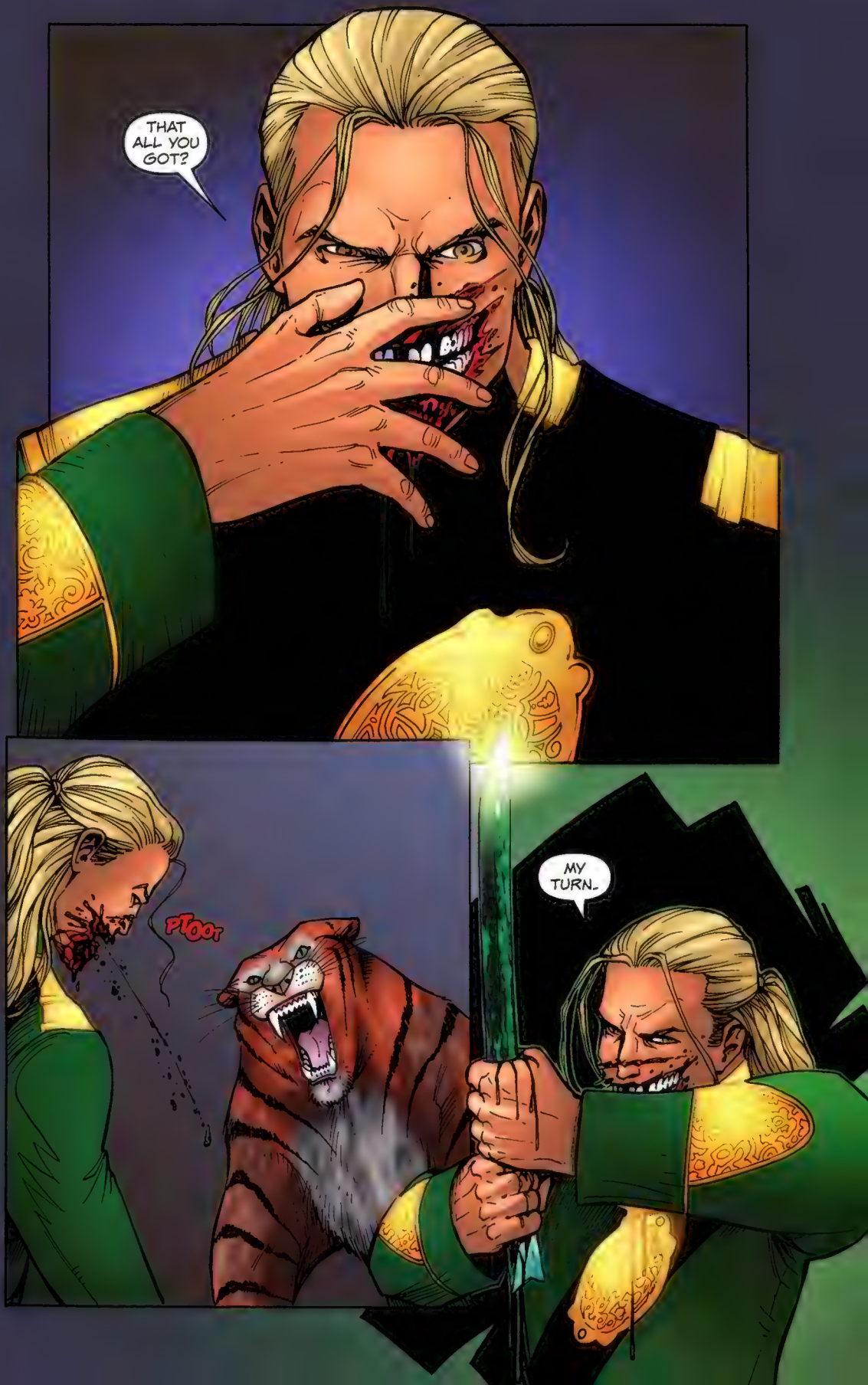
"AFTER ALL, WHAT'S THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN?"
OOK!
OOK!
OOOK!
QUIET, YOU FURRY IMBECILES!
I ONLY HAD ENOUGH WHAMMY TO TELEPORT US IN. IF THE EMERALD CITY GUARDS FIGURE OUT WE'RE UP HERE, THEY'LL SHOOT US OUT OF THE SKY, AND THERE'S NOT A DARN THING I'LL BE ABLE TO DO ABOUT IT.
TURDS THEY MAY BE, THEY'RE THE BEST SHOTS IN OZ.

SEE?
NOTHIN'S ON FIRE. THE PLUMBING ISN'T PUMPING OUT BLOOD. A SWARM OF LOCUSTS ISN'T GNAWING ON THE WALLPAPER.
SERIOUSLY, THOUGH...WE'RE THREE FLIGHTS UP - WHAT DID YOU THINK WAS GONNA HAPPEN? SHE WAS GONNA GRAB SOME PALM LEAVES AND LEAP OUT THE WINDOW?
YEAH, YEAH...
AND OUR YOUNG CHARGE IS SAFE AND SOUND. NOT A HAIR DISTURBED ON HER PRETTY LITTLE HEAD.
GRRR...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, YOUR HIGHNESS? ARE YOU COLD?
I KNEW WE SHOULDN'T HAVE LEFT HER SIDE...
OH, SETTLE DOWN...

DON'T!
IT'S NOT THE PRINCESS, IT'S SOME BOOBY TRAP LEFT IN HER STEAD!
I KNOW- BUT DON'T SHOOT! THE BULLETS WILL RICOCHET OFF THE WALLS AND DO MORE HARM TO US THAN IT! WHAT IS THIS, YOUR FIRST RODEO?
OH, RIGHT...
ALRIGHT. DEATH BY STABBING IT IS.
FIRST IT, THEN YOU.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GOT ME INTO THIS.
CALM DOWN. WE'VE BOTH BEEN IN TOUGHER SPOTS. WE'LL LAUGH ABOUT THIS LATER. ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS...

NO!
AHHHH!
SNAP
OH, SO IT'S GONNA BE LIKE THAT, IS IT?

YOU LIKE THAT, YOU UGLY SUNUVAGUN?
SLISSSH
THAT WAS FOR MY FRIEND!
GRRR!
SLASSH
ARGH!


THAT ALL YOU GOT?
PTOO!
MY TURN.

PRINCESS?
PRINCESS?
YOU FELLAS... YOU'RE...
...YOU'RE LATE TO THE PARTY.
FREEZE!

HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN?
I DIDN'T KILL HER, YOUR HIGHNESS. YOU KNOW I'D NEVER HARM--
YOU LEFT HER UNDEFENDED. YOU MIGHT AS WELL HAVE SLIT HER THROAT YOURSELF.
LORD AND PROTECTOR OF ALL OF OZ, AND I CAN'T EVEN KEEP MY OWN DAUGHTER SAFE.
I AM A GENTLE KING, JACK.
I'M A REAL "LEAD WITH THE CARROT, NOT THE WHIP" KIND OF GUY. YOU KNOW THIS.
BUT, DESPITE THE PERSONA I'VE WORKED HARD TO CREATE, I'VE DONE HORRIBLE THINGS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF MY PEOPLE. UNFORGIVABLE THINGS. THAT'S JUST THE UNSPOKEN, GRIM REALITY OF LEADERSHIP.
BUT I'VE NEVER TAKEN PLEASURE IN SEEING ANOTHER HUMAN BEING IN PAIN.
NOT UNTIL *TODAY*.
UNNGH!

IF I WERE A SELFISH MAN, I WOULD GRIND YOU BENEATH MY HEELS AND FEED THE REMAINS TO THE COYOTES...BUT I AM A CHARITABLE KING.
I PUT THE NEEDS OF MY PEOPLE BEFORE MY OWN.
UNGH...
I HEREBY CAST YOU OUT.
YOU'RE DISMISSED FROM SERVICE. YOU ARE EXILED FROM THE EMERALD KINGDOM. BY THE TIME THE SUN RISES, EVERY OZITE FROM THE SHIFTING SANDS TO THE DEADLY DESERT WILL HAVE HEARD THE ACCOUNT OF WHAT TRANSPIRED TONIGHT AND BE THIRSTY FOR YOUR BLOOD.
THEY'LL REND YOU LIMB FROM LIMB BY LUNCH-TIME, AND FOR GENERATIONS TO COME YOUR NAME WILL BE TAUGHT AS A CURSE.
MAY YOUR MURDER DISTRACT THEM FROM THEIR GRIEF. MAY YOUR DEATH BRING THEM CLOSURE.
"AND THAT'S THE STORY OF HOW OZ'S FAVORITE SON BECAME HER GREATEST SHAME.

KRAKA-
-THOOM
THAT'S QUITE A TALL TALE YOU GOT THERE...
HE HASN'T EVEN GOTTEN TO THE GOOD PART, YET!
SMAASH
HOLY MOLEY!
WHAT WAS THAT?
BLAM BLAM BLAM

COULD BE SPIES FROM THE KINGDOM OF IX.
MAYBE IT'S A TRIBE OF HUNGRY GOOZZLE-GOBLINS!
KRAAKA-
-THOOM
JUST ANOTHER DAY IN THE MARVELOUS LAND OF OZ.
TO BE CONTINUED...

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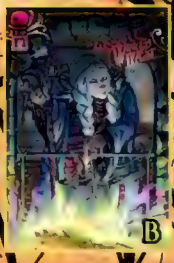
PREVIOUSLY IN THE WICKED WEST

Jack Pumpkinhead's past has been revealed. His failure to protect Princess Ozma, as well as his inablity to forgive himself have cost him dearly.

As the truth about the missing princess comes to light, Tip now chimes in with how he and Jack became friends.



COVER A: CARLOS RENO - COVER B: NEI RUFFINO - COVER C: SHANNON MAER

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YOU THERE, UGLY, BOARD THE DOORS.
TOUGH GUY, PROTECT THE GIRLS.
ON IT, CHIEF.
BAMM
RULE NUMBER ONE, LAW MAN: YOU NEVER LET YOUR ENEMY BAIT YOU INTO CONFRONTATION. "THUS IT IS THAT, IN WAR, THE VICTORIOUS STRATEGIST ONLY SEEKS BATTLE AFTER THE VICTORY HAS BEEN WON, WHEREAS HE WHO IS DESTINED TO DEFEAT FIRST FIGHTS AND AFTERWARDS LOOKS FOR VICTORY."
LAWMAN, YOU BARRICADE THE WINDOWS.
IT'S THE FIRST THING GENERAL OMBY AMBY DRILLS INTO THE NEW RECRUITS' SKULLS AT BOOT CAMP.
YOU WANT US TO COOP OURSELVES UP IN HERE, LIKE SITTING DUCKS?
WHY DON'T WE TAKE THE BATTLE TO THEM?
NOW, WE CAN ARGUE BACK AND FORTH ABOUT TACTICS AND HAVE A NICE LITTLE DEMOCRATIC TOWN HALL MEETING BEFORE WE GET BLOWN TO HELL...OR YOU CAN DO WHAT I SAY, AND MAYBE WE CAN GET OUT OF HERE WITH ALL OF OUR LIMBS ATTACHED.
IS THERE AN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN US?
HEY - I KNOW HE LOOKS LIKE SOME SORT OF NIGHTMARE CANNIBAL WITH TEN DIFFERENT COLORS OF BLOOD ON HIS BOOTS, BUT HE REALLY DOES KNOW WHAT HE'S TALKIN' ABOUT. I SWEAR ON LURLINE'S SPURS.
IF HE'S SUCH A ROUGH-AND- TUMBLE CUSTOMER, HOW COME HE TRAVELS WITH A SHAVE TAIL AIN'T EVEN OLD ENOUGH TO RUN A RAZOR THROUGH HIS WHISKERS?

"LISTEN: I'M NOT SAYIN' I HAD IT ANY WORSE THAN ANYONE IN THIS ROOM, BUT I GREW UP IN LESS-THAN-THAN-IDEAL CIRCUMSTANCES--"
"YOU WERE A SLAVE, TIP. AND THERE'S NO REASON TO BE ASHAMED. YOU SHOULD NEVER BE EMBARRASSED BY SOMETHING SOMEONE ELSE DID TO YOU. THAT'S ON THEM."
"THANKS, JACK.
"I WAS ONE OF A FEW DOZEN UNFORTUNATES ENSLAVED BY AN OLD CRONE CALLED 'MOMBI' - THE VILEST, MOST SOCIOPATHIC CREATURE THIS SIDE OF THE LAND OF EV."

REALLY?
YOU THINK NOW'S THE TIME TO SWAP SECRET ORIGINS AND TALK ABOUT OUR FEELINGS?
WHEN THERE'S TEN KINDS OF HELL MARCHING DOWN ON US FROM BEHIND THE DOOR, AND OUR FEARLESS LEADER'S BEST SUGGESTION IS TO HIDE UNDER THE TABLES AND PRAY 'EM AWAY?
DON'T MAKE AN ASS OF YOURSELF.
WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF TIME. FROM THE SOUND OF THINGS, THEY'RE EACH PACKING OUGHT-FORTY-FIVE HAND CANNONS, AND IT SOUNDS LIKE THERE'S ABOUT FOUR OF THEM. AND THEY'RE EXPERTS.
AIN'T GONNA BE A QUADLING COUNTRY STANDOFF OUT THERE. NO SCARED KIDS THROWIN' AROUND BULLETS LIKE THEY CAN SPARE 'EM.
SIX GUNS MEANS TWENTY-FOUR SHOTS TOTAL, MEANS ABOUT A SHOT A MINUTE, MEANS ABOUT A HALF AN HOUR FOR TIP TO SPIN HIS YARN.
UNLESS YOU'D RATHER WE JUST SAT HERE AND LISTEN TO EACH OTHER'S KNEES CLACK TOGETHER WHILE CERTAIN DEATH COMES A KNOCKIN'?
SOMETIMES IT'S USEFUL TO REMEMBER WHERE WE'VE BEEN BEFORE WE TAKE ON A NEW CHALLENGE. THERE'S NOT A SINGLE ONE OF US IN THIS ROOM THAT'S GOTTEN WHERE WE ARE WITHOUT HAVIN' PICKED UP A HANDFUL OF SCARS ALONG THE WAY.
LIKELIER THAN NOT, WE'RE GONNA PICK UP A COUPLE MORE TODAY. BUT WE'LL MAKE IT THROUGH... MOST OF US WILL MAKE IT THROUGH.
GO ON, THEN.
I SUPPOSE LISTENING TO THE LITTLE TWERP WON'T GET US ANY MORE MURDERED THAN WE'RE ALREADY GONNA BE.
THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
SLAP

SO, ANYWAY... YEAH. I WAS ONE OF A BUNCH OF SLAVES MOMBI KEPT ON HER RANCH.
SHE NEVER BOTHERED WITH STUFF LIKE FEEDING US, PROVIDING ADEQUATE SHELTER, TELLING US WHEN OUR BIRTHDAY WAS...Y'KNOW, NO LUXURIOUS STUFF.
"IF YOU ASKED TEN DIFFERENT PEOPLE WHAT MOMBI DOES FOR A LIVING, YOU'D GET TEN DIFFERENT ANSWERS. FROM WHAT I CAN KEN, SHE'S SOMETHING OF A POWER BROKER.
"THERE'S NOT A LICK OF EVIL THAT GETS DONE IN OZ WITHOUT HER HAVING A HAND IN IT. NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, WEST - DOESN'T MATTER NONE.
"IF YOU'RE A PERSON WHAT NEEDS TO GET SOME DIRTY DEEDS DONE CHEAP (WELL, MAYBE NOT "CHEAP," BUT SURE AS HECK "DIRTY"), SOONER OR LATER YOU TURN TO MOMBI.
"THE THING ABOUT GOOD OL' MOMBI, THOUGH... SHE DOESN'T TAKE PAYMENT IN CASH - NO, THAT'S MUCH TOO INCRIMINATING - SHE ONLY DOES BUSINESS WITH FOLKS WHO HAVE SOMETHING TO TRADE.
"SHE'S A SORCERESS AND A PLANTATION OWNER, SO SHE DOESN'T WANT FOR MUCH IN THE WAY OF WORLDLY POSSESSIONS.
"MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, SHE'S COMPENSATED IN HUMAN CHILDREN.
"PEOPLE SELL HER THEIR OWN CHILDREN, SOMETIMES THEIR NEIGHBORS'. FIRSTBORN SONS, REDHEADED DAUGHTERS, ALBINOS, TWINS AND VIRGINS OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES, ANYBODY WITH A HALF-DECENT BIRTHMARK...
"SHE USES 'EM FOR ALL MANNER OF THINGS: PHYSICAL LABOR, RAW INGREDIENTS FOR POTIONS AND ELIXIRS..."

"...OTHER STUFF TOO GROSS TO MENTION..."

YOU POOR, POOR CHILD. I--
S'OKAY.
RUMOR IS THAT I'M A HEARTLESS S.O.B. - BUT EVEN I'LL ADMIT THAT'S A MIGHTY ROUGH DEAL, KID.
IT'S OKAY. THE STORY GETS BETTER.
IT'D HAVE TO. AND IT DOESN'T END TODAY. I'LL TELL YOU THAT MUCH FOR FREE.
BLAM BLAM BLAM
NO WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT, PUMPKINHEAD?
SHH. CONCENTRATING.
ON WHAT?
COUNTING.

"SO, Y'KNOW... IT WASN'T EXACTLY PARADISE.
"THOSE OF US WHO WEREN'T GROUND INTO MAGIC POWDERS EITHER COLLAPSED FROM EXHAUSTION...
"...OR WERE WHIPPED SENSELESS FOR HAVING THE AUDACITY TO LOOK ONE OF MOMBI'S GUESTS IN THE EYE, OR WHATEVER.
"BUT, EVEN IN THE HARSHEST ENVIRONMENTS, HUMANITY FINDS A WAY TO PERSIST.
HEH!
THIS IS GONNA BE GREAT.
"KIDS WILL ALWAYS FIND WAYS TO BE KIDS, AND ART WILL ALWAYS BE THE LAST REFUGE OF THOSE UNDER THUMB."

YOUR ROYAL WICKEDNESS, I THINK YOU'LL FIND THERE'S VERY LITTLE YOU DESIRE THAT I CAN'T MAKE HAPPEN.
IS THAT SO?
EEK!
OOK!
IT IS. I'VE BEEN IN THIS GAME LONGER THAN ANYONE. YOU'LL FIND THERE'S NOT A SINGLE SOUL IN OZ WHO DOESN'T RESPECT ME...OR AT THE VERY LEAST FEAR ME.
"THE THING ABOUT ART IS THAT IT DOESN'T CARE WHETHER YOU'RE A SLAVE OR A FREED MAN. IT'S INDIFFERENT TO HOW MUCH COIN YOU'VE GOT STACKED UP IN YOUR COFFERS...
GRR!
HISS
"ALL THAT MATTERS IS THAT IT'S EFFECTIVE."
AHH! INTRUDER!
WHAT AM I FEEDING YOU FLEA-INFESTED IDIOTS FOR?
GET THEM!
ATTACK!

"RESPECT" AND "FEAR," HUH?
HEE HEE HEE!
HOO HOO HOO!
ARGH!
I'LL FIND WHO DID THIS.
AND MARK MY WORDS - HEADS WILL ROLL.
SQUISH

WHO DARES?
WUZ GOIN' ON? WUZ HAPPENIN'?
IT WASN'T ME!
I TOLD THEM NOT TO, BUT--
AND THAT LITTLE BRAT GOT OFF LUCKY.
SEE IF THAT JOGS YOUR MEMORY SOME.
DUDE.
GROSS.
RIBBIT

OH, CHILD...
IT'S OKAY.
=SNIFFLE=
THE NEXT PART'S REALLY COOL.
YOU MIGHT WANT TO TELL IT QUICK.
THINGS'RE ABOUT TO GET REAL INTERESTING.

"I DID TWO THINGS THAT DAY I SWORE I'D NEVER DO AGAIN.
"ONE:
IF YOU FIND A WAY OUT, COME BACK FOR US!
I WILL.
"I LIED.
"TWO:
"I RAN AWAY."

WHERE DOES THAT LITTLE NOBODY THINK HE'S OFF TO...?
WEAUGH!
TEAUGH!
PEAUGH!
AHHH!
I HATED VEGETABLES EVEN BEFORE THEY WERE TRYING TO MURDER ME!
UNNNGH...

I'M TOO HUNGRY TO GET EATEN!
?!
OW.
AHH!
SSH!
AHH!

QUIET. HE'LL HEAR YOU.
WHO?
SOMEONE FAR MORE DANGEROUS THAN WHATEVER YOU'RE RUNNING FROM.
HISSSSS
THIS HERE IS MY SHAME-FOREST.
HISS
GET YOUR OWN.

THEY CALL HIM "JACK..."
"JACK PUMPKINHEAD".

WHAT YOU SHOULD ALL TAKE FROM THAT STORY IS THAT I AM AN UNKILLABLE MAN OF MYSTERY WHO IS MORE THAN CAPABLE OF GETTING US OUT OF ANY STICKY WICKET THAT MAY PRESENT ITSELF.
BUT WE HAVEN'T EVEN GOTTEN TO THE BEST PART, YET!
IT'S GONNA HAVE TO WAIT.
LISTEN, I KNOW THIS IS AN ODD THING TO ASK IMMEDIATELY AFTER BEING TOLD A STORY ABOUT HOW I MURDERED A BUNCH OF CHILDREN'S STORYBOOK CHARACTERS, BUT I'LL ASK THE LOT OF YOU THIS ONCE: DO YOU TRUST ME?
OF COURSE.
RAWR.
YEP.
...SURE.
GOOD...'CAUSE I'M GOING TO NEED A LITTLE SOMETHING FROM EACH OF YOU TO GET US OUT OF THIS IN ONE (OR AT LEAST LESS THAN THREE) PIECES.
GLINDA, MY LADY, AS AN ACCOMPLISHED WOMAN OF SORCERY...
...I ASSUME THAT YOU HAVE A VIAL OF ESSENCE OF JACKDAW ON YOUR PERSON SOMEWHERE?
I MAY.
AND, AS A WOMAN OF INFLUENCE, I ASSUME YOU PACK A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR PROTECTION?
I DO.

YOU'RE A... MAGICIAN?
ALL GUARDS IN THE EMPLOY OF THE EMERALD KINGDOM ARE TAUGHT RUDIMENTARY COMBAT SORCERY.
BALLOON ANIMALS AND SUCH?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
OUCH!
YOU SAID YOU TRUSTED ME.
I SAY A LOT OF THINGS TO MY FRIENDS WHO DON'T PLUCK THE HAIRS OUTTA MY STINKIN' HEAD!
IT'LL GROW BACK, BUDDY.
=WHIMPER.=
A KISS FOR LUCK, DEARIE?
I SHUDDER TO THINK WHAT YOU'RE GONNA ASK FROM ME...
UH-HUH.
I REALLY THINK WE SHOULD LET MY GUARDS TAKE CARE OF THIS.
NOTHIN' YOU'RE UNACCUSTOMED TO GIVIN': JUST YOUR FRIENDSHIP AND CONSTANT ENCOURAGEMENT.
SWEETHEART, YOUR GUARDS ARE ALREADY DEAD.

YOU HEAR THAT?
WHAT?
EXACTLY. SILENCE.
WE KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE!
PLACE YOUR WEAPONS ON THE GROUND AND YOUR HANDS ON YOUR HEAD.
YOU GOT IT, BOSS. ALL'S CLEAR.
COME ON IN...
FWOOM!

THAT'S THE SECOND TIME YOU'VE FAILED TO KILL ME.
YOU WON'T GET ANOTHER CHANCE, OLD FRIEND.
NO!
I-I SEE YOU'VE HAD SOME WORK DONE.
IT'S NO WOODEN LEG, BUT IT GETS THE JOB DONE.
AND WHAT EXACTLY IS "THE JOB," THESE DAYS?
SAME AS IT EVER WAS: BRINGING THE ENEMIES OF THE REALM TO JUSTICE.
JACK "PUMPKINHEAD," YOU ARE HEREBY UNDER ARREST FOR CRIMES AGAINST THE ROYAL FAMILY!
IN PARTICULAR, NEGLIGENCE RESULTING IN THE DEATH OF PRINCESS OZMA AND THE ABDUCTION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY.
THE KING HAS BEEN DETHRONED, SOLDIER.
AND I AIN'T NOBODY'S "PRIVATE PROPERTY!"
THE MISSION'S OVER. STAND DOWN.
NOT EVEN DEATH COULD KEEP ME FROM BRINGING YOU TO JUSTICE, JACK.
TO BE CONTINUED...

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MIKE
DeBALSO

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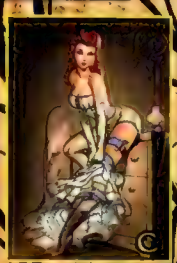
PREVIOUSLY IN THE WICKED WEST

As an unknown force breaks through Glinda's castle's defenses, Jack Pumpkinhead and Tip continue their remembrance of how they met.

Memories of Mombi, Ozma and the lost history of Oz are being spoken again for the first time in a decade.



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YOUR FRIENDS AREN'T DOING SO HOT.
I DON'T RELY ON OTHER PEOPLE TO GET MY WORK DONE....NOT ANYMORE.
WE AIN'T AFRAID OF YOU, YA BIG TIN CAN!
IF YOU CAME HERE LOOKIN' FOR A FIGHT, YOU FOUND IT!
BLAM!
SOMEONE GET THIS RUGRAT OUTTA HERE!

I GOT IT, JACK!
YOU'D SHOW SUCH CONCERN FOR A GILLIKIN BEGGAR?
YOU, WHO CONSIDERED YOURSELF ABOVE GUARDING THE PRINCESS OF OZ?
I'M NOT THE MAN YOU USED TO KNOW. I'VE CHANGED.
SOMETHING TELLS ME YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THAT.
WHIMPER.

Back then:
THIS IS HUMILIATING.
WE SHOULD BE STATIONED IN THE DEADLY DESERT, GUARDING THE REALM FROM THE FORCES OF THE NOME KING...NOT PLAYING GLORIFIED BABYSITTER FOR SOME SPOILED BRAT.
HEH!
The here and now:
THE NIGHT WE LOST OZMA I MADE A MISTAKE.
IT WASN'T MY FIRST, AND IT CERTAINLY WON'T BE MY LAST... BUT IT WAS MY WORST.
AND I PAID THE PRICE FOR MY TRANSGRESSIONS.
I LEARNED MY LESSONS.
YOU'RE HERE TO - WHAT? - TELL ME HOW WORTHLESS I AM?
I'M SOLD.
YOU'RE HERE TO KICK ME WHILE I'M DOWN?
GO AHEAD.
HSSS

CLICK
CLICK
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO PAID THE PRICE FOR YOUR MISTAKES.
HSSS

I'M SORRY.
IN THIS WORLD, THAT'S ALL A MAN CAN DO - SAY HE'S SORRY.
IT DOESN'T DO A LICK OF GOOD ABOUT WHAT'S PAST, BUT IT'S ALL THAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT MOVIN' FORWARD.
I'M ASKING YOU THIS, MAN TO MAN: CAN WE, WITHOUT IGNORING ANYTHING THAT'S COME BEFORE, TRY AN' MOVE FORWARD?
HSSS

YOUR OFFER WOULD BE TEMPTING...
...IF I WERE STILL A MAN.
NO!
GRRR!
YOU LIKE THAT, YOU UGLY SUNUVAGUN?
HELP ME...
SOMEBODY, PLEASE...
YOU LEFT ME TO DIE, JACK.
I THOUGHT YOU HAD GIVEN UP THE GHOST! I LEFT YOU TO AVENGE YOUR DEATH!

BLAM!
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TWO TO GET CLEAR OF HERE!
WE THOUGHT YOU MIGHT NEED SOME HELP!

HSSS
AAAH!
KEEP YOUR HEADS IN THE GAME!
WE OUTNUMBER THE NOISY TEA KETTLE FOUR TO ONE!
CLANG!
CHOP!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ENCOURAGE SUCH LOYALTY?
HONESTLY? I'LL BE DAMNED IF I KNOW.
IT'S BECAUSE WE'VE ALL MADE MISTAKES.
AND JACK DOESN'T HIDE HIS.
HE WEARS A MASK!
YEAH...
=GASP=
THAT'S MORE FOR EVERYONE ELSE'S SAKE...

RRRRRGH
CHOMP!
WELL, ALRIGHT... GOOD KITTY.
HSSS
WHACK!
THUMP...
THUMP...
THUMP...

WHAT?
IT'S NOT NEARLY AS GRUESOME AS IT LOOKS. THESE PATCHWORK "TIK-TOK" SOLDIERS CAN'T REALLY BE KILLED.
POP THIS THING BACK IN AND WIND HIM UP, AND THE MURDEROUS BUM WILL BE BACK AT OUR THROATS IN NO TIME.
THUMP... THUMP...
MAY I SEE THAT?
DON'T SEE WHY NOT.
HMM. INTERESTING.
THUMP... THUMP...
WHOOSH
SMASH!

YOU GONNA FINISH YOUR STORY OR WHAT, LITTLE MAN?

GO ON.
IF YOU GO THROUGH YOUR LIFE LETTIN' EVERY HOMICIDAL AUTOMATON INTERRUPT YOUR CAMPFIRE STORIES, YOU'LL NEVER FINISH ONE.
GO ON AND SPIT IT OUT, OR WE LET THE CLOCKWORK TERRORISTS WIN.

"SO, ANYWAY..."
THEY CALL HIM "JACK"...."JACK PUMPKINHEAD".
HMM...?
EITHER I CAUGHT ME SOME DINNER, OR I CAUGHT ME A SNITCH. EITHER WAY, YOU MIGHT WANT TO MAKE YOUR PEACE WITH LURLINE...
AHHH!
DON'T EAT ME!
YOU DON'T LOOK VERY MUCH LIKE AN EMERALD ASSASSIN...

"JACK AND I BECAME FAST FRIENDS.
"WE SWAPPED TALES OF BATTLE AND GLORY AND BONDED THE WAY SOLDIERS DO.
...SO THEN I PRETTY MUCH JUST RAN AWAY.
ME TOO.
"WE FOUND KINSHIP WITH THE FIELD MICE. THEY WERE LIKE US: LIVING OFF THE LAND, REFUSING TO SETTLE DOWN, GOIN' WHEREVER THE WIND TOOK 'EM.
"REBELS. NOMADS. OUTLAWS.
"HUNGRY."
YOU CAN'T RUN FOREVER, KID. YA NEED AN EXIT STRATEGY.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I'M NOT RUNNING AWAY FROM ANYTHING; I'M RUNNING TO SOMETHING.
I'M ON THE HUNT FOR PRINCESS OZMA. ONCE I FIND HER, BRING HER BACK, WE CAN GET START GETTING THINGS BACK ON TRACK.
THE WORLD WILL START MAKIN' SENSE AGAIN.
YOUR TURN.
WHEN DO YOU STOP RUNNIN'?
I GUESS ONCE MOMBI IS... Y'KNOW...DEAD.
KID, THAT OLD CRONE IS GONNA OUTLIVE THE SUN.
=MUNCH.=
THAT'S HOW EVIL WORKS, MOSTLY. GOOD FOLKS EITHER RUN FROM IT OR CONVINCE THEMSELVES IT DOESN'T EXIST.
YOU'RE NOT AFRAID OF HER, THOUGH. THERE'S NOTHIN' INHERENTLY SCARY ABOUT SOME ANCIENT BAG OF FROWNS AND WRINKLES.
UH...
I'M SERIOUS. YOU'RE NOT AFRAID OF HER, YOU'RE AFRAID OF WHAT SHE DOES, HOW SHE MAKES YOU FEEL, SOME-THING LIKE THAT. IT'S A SUBTLETY, BUT IT'S TRUE.
WELL, I GUESS... I GUESS I HATE WHAT SHE REPRESENTS.
WHAT'S THAT?
THAT A BODY COULD BE PERMITTED TO OWN ANOTHER BODY. IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.
YOU'D MAKE A GOOD RULER.
I JUST FEEL LIKE... LIKE SOMEBODY SHOULD DO SOMETHING.

WE'RE REALLY GONNA DO THIS...?
I DIDN'T MEAN US...
YOU SAID IT YOURSELF. SOMEBODY HAS TO.
IT'S THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THOSE WITH A VISION OF A BETTER TOMORROW TO REALIZE THAT FUTURE.
THAT'S NOT FAIR.
IT'S A TERRIBLE PRIVILEGE.
AW, IT'S NOT ALL BAD...
...SOMETIMES YOU GET TO KNIFE SOMETHIN'.
I'M JUST SCARED SHE'S GONNA, Y'KNOW...MAGIC ME INTO SOMETHING HORRIBLE.
YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS?
UH... NOPE.
IT'S AN ANTI-MAGIC CHARM. STANDARD ISSUE TO THE HIGHER RANKING OFFICERS IN KING PASTORIA'S ROYAL GUARD.
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF SUCH A THING...
WERE YOU A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL GUARD?
WELL, NO...
WELL, THERE YOU GO.
IT'S YOURS. FOR AS LONG AS YOU NEED IT.
...THANKS.
WE GOOD NOW?
WE'RE GOOD.
ALRIGHT, THEN.

CHARGE!
?
?
OOK?

YOU'RE DONE.
EXCUSE ME?
YOU HEARD ME YOU OLD HAG.
YOU'RE DONE. YOU'RE THROUGH.
IT'S OVER.
HOW STRONG IS THAT TALISMAN OF YOURS?
IT'S NOT A TALISMAN.
WHAT?
IT'S JUST A NECKLACE. I PICKED IT UP AT A LOLLIPOP GUILD GIFT SHOP FOR A COPPER PIECE.
YOU...YOU MONSTER! HOW RECKLESS--
HEY. BETTER TO *DIE* UNAFRAID THAN TO *LIVE* IN FEAR.
ALL THE INSULTS, ALL THE VIOLENCE, ALL THE FEAR - ALL OF IT.
IT STOPS NOW.
RIGHT NOW.

WHAT?
HOW?
WHO--?
PLL
WHAT MANNER OF SORCERY IS THIS?
THE HECK...?
JACK, I THOUGHT YOU SAID...
IT'S AN ANTI-MAGIC CHARM. STANDARD ISSUE TO THE HIGHER RANKING OFFICERS IN KING PASTORIA'S ROYAL GUARD.
EVER HEARD OF IT?

WHAT?
HOW?
WHO---?
MY NAME IS TIPPETARIUS.
AND I'M THE LAST KID YOU'RE EVER GOING TO HURT.
POW!
IF THAT AMULET ISN'T REAL, THEN HOW...?
NO WAY.
HOLY CRAP.
KRAK
I'M AS STUMPED AS YOU ARE, YOUR HIGHNESS.
LITTLE TUMBLEWEED MUST ALREADY HAVE SOME MAGIC IN 'IM...

"THE FIELD MICE ADOPTED MOMBI'S ORPHANS INTO THEIR POSSE AND MADE THEM HONORARY RODENTS.
I ALWAYS KNEW YOU'D COME BACK FOR US, TIP!
AWW, SHUCKS...
IT WAS NOTHIN'.
"JACK SET FIRE TO MOMBI'S RANCH AND SET ALL OF HER ANIMALS FREE. EVEN THE CHICKENS.
HEH!
"MOMBI GOT LOST REAL QUICK. NOBODY KNOWS WHAT ROCK SHE'S HIDING UNDER.
"AND THAT PRETTY MUCH BRINGS US UP TO SPEED.
"JACK AND I HAVE BEEN WALKIN' OZ EVER SINCE, LOOKIN' FOR THAT PRINCESS OF HIS AND RIGHTIN' WRONGS AS WE COME ACROSS 'EM.
"NOT A BAD LIFE."

IT'S A PRETTY GOOD STORY, RIGHT?
BEST ONE I EVER HEARD.
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE A LITTLE BIASED?

I'VE GOT A HUNCH YOUR BEST STORIES ARE AHEAD OF YOU, TOO.
"YEAH. I BET YOU'RE RIGHT."
NEVER THE END!

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Tom Hutchison
Writer
Alison Borges
Artist
Kate Finnegan
Colorist
The Legend of Oz
The Wicked West

The Legend of OZ: The Wicked West

BASED ON CHARACTERS CREATED BY L. FRANK BAUM

writer
Eric Esquivel

artist
Carlos Reno

colors
Kate Finnegan

letters
HDE

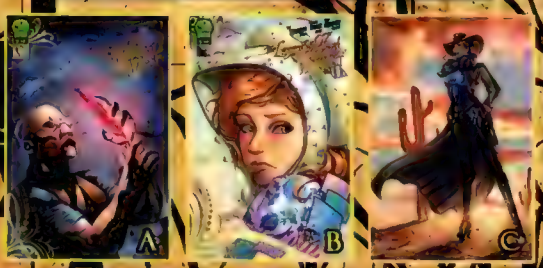
design
Rob Duenas

edits
Kari Castor

PREVIOUSLY IN THE WICKED WEST

Jack Pumpkinhead's past has caught up with him...and tried to kill him and his friends inside Glinda's castle in the south of Oz.

After escaping with little more than his life, Tip finished the tale of his encounter with Mombi, the former Witch of the North. A tale filled with magic, bravery and possible answers to the questions about the missing princess, Ozma.



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THE EMERALD CITY.
THE HOME OF DR. PIPT AND HIS DAUGHTER, AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS "SCRAPS".
DO YOU THINK HE WILL EVER COME BACK, PAPA?
I MISS HIM SO MUCH. DO YOU THINK HE MISSES ME?

WHO CAN KNOW THE MIND OF AN ANIMAL? MUCH LESS THE MIND OF AN ARTIFICIALLY CREATED ONE.
YOU'D BEST FORGET ABOUT HIM AND SET YOUR MIND TO YOUR CHORES, SCRAPS.
YES, PAPA.
DON'T FORGET YOUR TEA. I MADE IT JUST HOW YOU LIKE IT.
YOU TAKE GOOD CARE OF ME, DAUGHTER. YOUR MOTHER WOULD BE VERY PROUD.
I LOVE YOU, PAPA.
AND I YOU.

BE A GOOD GIRL TODAY. I WILL SEE YOU TONIGHT.
BE CAREFUL, PAPA.
YOU'RE ALL I HAVE LEFT IN THIS WORLD.
AND THE WORLD IS SUCH A BIG PLACE.
"I BET MY POOR SAWHORSE IS LOST AND LONELY AND IN NEED OF A FRIEND."
"THE SCARECROW WILL BE SAFE HERE, WITH ME."

OZ. SOUTHERNMOST POINT. GLINDA'S JURISDICTION.
BEG YER PARDON THERE, GLINDA, BUT THAT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'D PREFER IT IF THE REST OF US SKEDADDLE OUTTA YER HAIR.
THE SCARECROW IS A UNIQUE CREATURE AND NEEDS TO BE CARED FOR PROPERLY.
THE REST OF YOU NEED TO JOIN JACK IN THE SEARCH FOR OZ'S MISSING PRINCESS, OZMA.
I'VE BEEN ON THE TRAIL FOR NEARLY TEN YEARS ALREADY. I CAME HERE FOR YOUR HELP AND YOU HAVEN'T SAID WHETHER YOU'RE GONNA STEP UP OR NOT.
YOU WILLING TO LEND YOUR HISTORY BOOK TO THE CAUSE?
MR. JACK, THE GREAT BOOK OF RECORDS IS NOT SIMPLY OPENED AND READ PAGE BY PAGE. IT TAKES A GREAT DEAL OF CONCENTRATION AND SKILL TO DECIPHER ITS IMAGES.
YOU WOULD HAVE NO CHANCE OF FINDING WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR WITHIN ITS INFINITE PAGES.
THEREFORE, I SHALL STUDY THE BOOK MYSELF AND RETURN WITH ITS FINDINGS ON THE MATTER.
IN THE MEANTIME, MAKE YOURSELVES USEFUL AND CLEAN UP THE FOYER AND COURTYARD. YOUR LITTLE BACK STORY WITH THAT TICKING MAN HAS PLAYED HAVOC WITH MY HOME.*
*FIND OUT JACK'S SECRET PAST IN WICKED WEST ISSUES 6-8!

I SURE AIN'T CLEANIN' UP YOUR MESS. I'M NOT THE ONE WITH A CRAZY MECHANICAL NUT JOB CHASIN' ME ACROSS OZ.
AND I SURE AIN'T FOLLOWIN' THE LIKES OF YOU ON SOME WILD WHIMSY CHASE FOR A MISSIN' GIRL.
THIS ISN'T JUST A MISSING GIRL! WE'RE TALKING ABOUT OZMA! THE RIGHTFUL HEIR TO THE EMERALD CITY THRONE!
SO WHAT?
"SO WHAT?" OZ IS IN CHAOS. HAS BEEN SINCE PASTORIA DIED.
AND WITH JINJUR INSTALLING HERSELF AS THE RULER OF THE EMERALD CITY, IT'S ONLY GOING TO GET WORSE. CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?
GENERAL JINJUR.

WHAT?
SHE LIKES TO BE CALLED GENERAL JINJUR.
YOU ARE THE SORRIEST EXCUSE FOR A LAW MAN I HAVE EVER MET.
DON'T YOU CARE THAT YOUR COUNTRY IS BEING RUN BY A MALCONTENT WITH HER OWN AGENDA TO FULFILL, BEFORE SHE EVEN CONSIDERS TAKING CARE OF THE PEOPLE OF OZ?
CAN'T SAY THAT I DO.
THAP
POW
OZMA AIN'T GONNA REPLACE MY LAST CIGAR.
I'VE GIVEN YOU ALL THE COURTESY I GOT IN ME. I GAVE YA A FOOT AND YA TOOK A YARD. IT'S TIME YOU UNDERSTOOD WHO'S ACTUALLY IN CHARGE AROUND HERE.

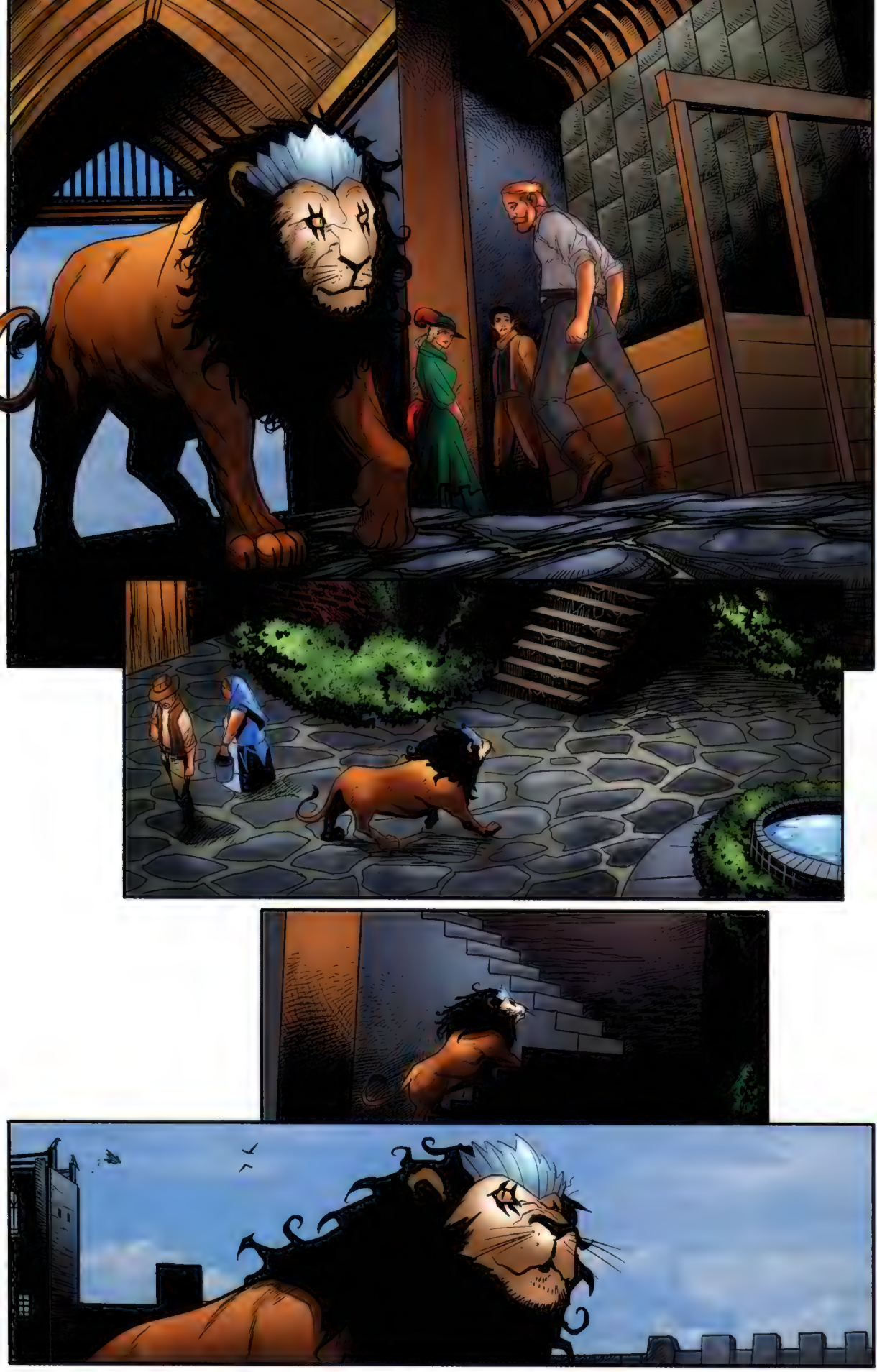
KLANKK
OWW!
THAT SALTS IT. YOU WANNA GO DOWN THAT ROAD, I'M HAPPY TO OBLIGE!
HOLD ON, NOW. I AIN'T HERE TO GET IN A SCUFFLE WITH YOU. I JUST NEEDED TO GET IN HERE TO SEE GLINDA. YOU WANNA TURN TAIL AND FORGET ABOUT OZMA, THAT'S YOUR CALL.
I AIN'T NO COWARD, JACK. BUT I ALSO DON'T MAKE A HABIT OF FOLLOWIN' LUNATICS LIKE YOU WHO SEEM TO HAVE A WAY OF ATTRACTIN' TROUBLE TO THEMSELVES.
UNDERSTOOD.

GOOD JOB, MEN. KEEP THESE SAMPLES COMING AND LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU FIND THE CORNERS OF THIS SUPPOSED CONTRAPTION.
UNDERSTOOD, SIR.
THIS TOURMALINE IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE PURE. MUST MEAN WE'RE GETTING CLOSER.
THEN PERHAPS YOU SHOULD BE DOUBLING YOUR EFFORTS, DR. PIPT.
I DON'T NEED YOU TELLIN' ME HOW TO DO MY JOB, MOMBI. STAY OUTTA MY TUNNELS IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU.
YOU PUFF YOUR CHEST AT THE WRONG MOMENT AND I'LL BE THERE TO POP IT.
AND WHAT WOULD BECOME OF POOR LITTLE SCRAPS IF HER DADDY WHERE NOT HERE TO PROTECT HER?
DO NOT EVEN THINK TO THREATEN ME OR MY DAUGHTER, YOU ANCIENT BAG OF MONKEY DROPPINGS.
KRUNCH
DO YOURSELF A FAVOR AND STAY OUT OF MY WAY, OR PASTORIA HELP ME, I'LL--

YOU'LL WHAT? HMM? WHAT WILL YOU DO? KILL ME?
I THINK NOT. YOU SPEAK TO A FORMER WITCH OF THE NORTH WHO STILL HAS MORE THAN ENOUGH POWER TO HANDLE THE LIKES OF AN EMERALD CITY DITCH DIGGER!
FWOOSH
I'M NO STRANGER TO THE WAYS OF MAGIC MYSELF.
I KNOW A THING OR TWO ABOUT THE ORIGINS OF YOUR POWERS, AND HAVE CONCOCTED SOME OF MY OWN DESIGN AS WELL.
ARROGANCE IS THE TRAIT I DESPISE MOST IN YOUR KIND, PIPT. DO YOU BELIEVE YOURSELF TO BE MY EQUAL?
I DIDN'T SAY THAT, BUT I CERTAINLY DON'T FEAR YOU LIKE THE OTHERS DO.
REMEMBER MY WORDS, MOMBI.
FOR YOUR OWN SAKE.

OZ. THE SOUTHERN EMERALD FOREST.
WE'VE CAUGHT UP TO 'EM.
SEEMS THEY HEADED THIS WAY FOR A REASON.

ONE THING'S FER SURE. AIN'T NO DAMNED WITCH IN ALL OF OZ THAT'S GONNA GET BETWEEN ME AND MY PREY.
WHAT DO YA THINK GLINDA'S DOIN' IN THERE?



RIBBIT!
RIBBIT!

RRROOOAAARRRR!

WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES WAS THAT?
WAS THAT OUR LION?
HE'S ON ABOUT SOMETHIN' THAT'S FOR SURE. LET'S GIVE HIM A HAND.
PROBABLY GOT STUCK IN THE POND OR SOMETHIN' EQUAL RIDICULOUS.
THIS WHOLE THING IS TAKIN' A LOT LONGER THAN I PLANNED FOR.
I NEED MY ANSWERS.

WHAT'RE YOU CRAZY BROADS DOIN'? DON'T YA HEAR THE LION YELLIN'? OPEN THAT DOOR!
STAND BACK! THE LION IS NOT ALONE!
THE WHEELERS HAVE FOUND YOU!
DAMN.
POW
POW
POW
GET DOWN, YOU TWO!
POW
POW
POW
POW

WELL, WELL. WHAT HAVE WE HERE? LOOKS LIKE A LITTLE LOST BAG O' STUFFIN' AND HER GRANDPA!
HAHAHA!
I AIN'T NO-ONE'S GRANDPA.
POW
POW
POW
POW
TANK
CLANG
SPANG
TANG

THAT YOUR BEST SHOT, GRONGER?
'CAUSE YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO DO A HELL OF A LOT BETTER THAN THAT!
WHERE'S THE LION?
IN TRUTH, I GOT NO IDEA!
HA HA HA!
THUNK
WOAH!
BOFF

DAMN LAW MAN BROKE MY FACE!
THAT LION'S A DAMNED COWARD. LOOKS LIKE HE HIGH-TAILED IT OUT OF TOWN.
ENOUGH'S ENOUGH JUST WANT THE LITTLE STRAW HEAD, LAW MAN.
NOT WHILE I'M STANDIN'.
LET'S FIX THAT LITTLE PROBLEM, THEN.
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK
POW
POW
POW
NEXT ISSUE:
Questions ~ and ~ Answers.

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The Legend of OZ: The Wicked West

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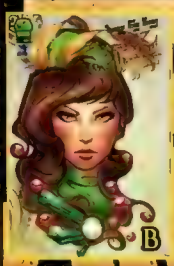
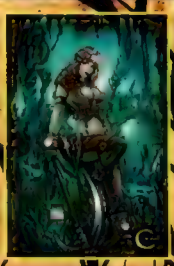
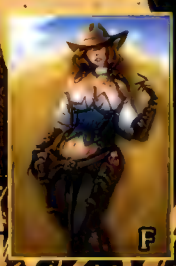
PREVIOUSLY IN THE WICKED WEST

Memories can hurt as much as they can help. Tip's story of courage has helped Tin Man understand that Jack Pumkinhead is more than just an outlaw.

Now the group must band together and forge ahead as the search for Ozma begins.







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OZ. NORTH.
GILLIKIN COUNTRY.
ALRIGHT. I GIVE UP.
WHERE IN THE NAME OF PASTORIA ARE WE NOW?
I'M GONNA NEED A CIGAR BEFORE THE DAY'S OUT. I CAN FEEL IT.
I KNOW WHERE WE ARE.
AND WE DON'T WANT TO BE HERE ANY LONGER THAN WE HAVE TO.
NO NEED TA BE ALL DRAMATIC, TIP.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, LAW MAN. WE'RE HOME. MY HOME. WHERE I GREW UP.

SOMEHOW, WE JUMPED OUT OF GLINDA'S CASTLE AND ENDED UP IN THE ***EXACT*** WRONGEST PLACE WE'D ***EVER*** WANT TO BE.

THIS IS WHERE THE ***OLD*** WITCH OF THE NORTH CAME WHEN SHE WAS WHOOPED BY THE ***NEW*** WITCH OF THE NORTH.

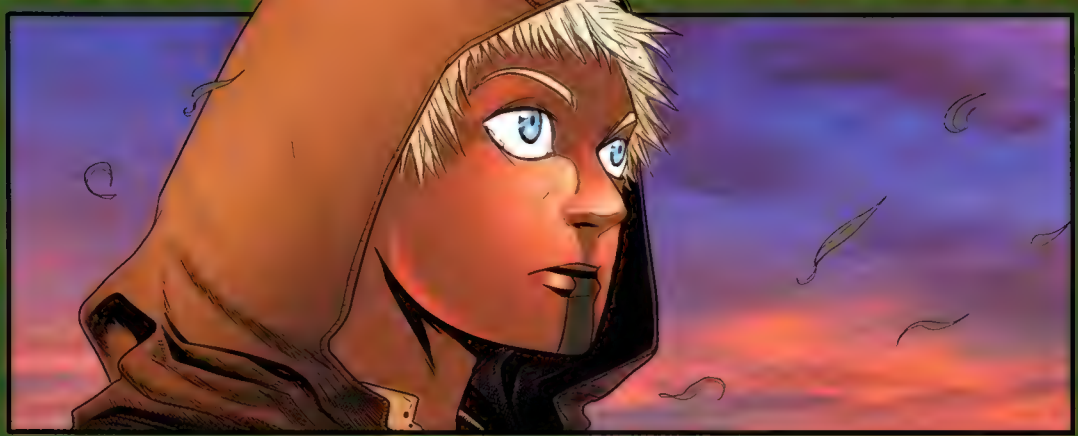
THIS IS MOMBI'S SETTLEMENT, LAW MAN.

THAT IT IS, MY STURDY SIDEKICK.
WHA--?
JACK!
SORRY I'M LATE. THINGS WERE A BIT OF A MESS AT GLINDA'S CASTLE, WHICH IS WHY SHE POPPED US ALL WAY UP NORTH.
THOUGH WHY SHE'D SEND US HERE IS A MYSTERY TO ME.
JACK, I CAN'T BE HERE! WHAT IF MOMBI IS STILL HERE? WHAT IF SHE GETS ME AGAIN?
TIP, YOU GOT NOTHIN' TO BE AFRAID OF. I'M HERE TO PROTECT YOU, DAY AND NIGHT.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE HERE, YOU CAN SET YERSELF DOWN IN THE WHEAT HERE AND WAIT FOR US TO LOOK AROUND. GLINDA OBVIOUSLY SENT US HERE FOR A REASON.

I DON'T WANT YOU TO THINK I'M A COWARD. BUT I CAN'T GO BACK DOWN THERE. I JUST CAN'T.

REMEMBER, TIP, YOU STOOD UP TO HER ONCE ALREADY.
THERE'S NO REASON TO BE AFRAID. I KNOW A COWARD WHEN I SEE ONE, TIP. AND YOU DON'T QUALIFY.

KEEP WATCH FOR US, TIP. WE'LL BE BACK BEFORE NIGHTFALL.



YOU'RE STAYING, TOO?
ARE YOU SCARED, TOO, OR JUST TRYING TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER?
OKAY! OKAY!
WAIT FOR US!

EMERALD CITY. HOME OF DR. PIPT AND HIS DAUGHTER, AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS "SCRAPS".
HEY, WAIT FOR ME!
I JUST WANT TO PLAY! MY SAWHORSE ALWAYS PLAYED WITH ME; WHY WON'T YOU?
EEEK!
FWOOSH!

FORGIVE ME, CHILD. I DID NOT MEAN TO GIVE YOU SUCH A START.
OH, THAT'S OKAY, MISS MOMBI. I WAS JUST CHASING SOME FIELD MICE. I WAS HOPING THEY'D PLAY WITH ME, BUT I THINK I SCARED THEM OFF.
FFT! THOSE MICE ARE A MENACE TO THIS CITY, SCRAPS. YOU'D DO YOURSELF A FAVOR IF YOU'D STAY AWAY FROM THEM.
IN FACT, I HAVE SOMETHING HERE THAT WILL RID US OF BOTH YOUR LONELINESS AND THE EMERALD CITY RODENTS.

YES. SOMETHING TO CHASE THOSE HORRIBLE CREATURES AWAY...
...AND SOMETHING FOR A PRETTY GIRL WHO HAS A HEART FILLED WITH LOVE.
OH... MY!

THIS IS A VERY SPECIAL CAT, MY DEAR. ONLY SOMEONE WITH YOUR PLUSH CONSTITUTION COULD PROPERLY CARE FOR THE BEAST.
THIS CAT MUST NEVER BE LEFT OUTSIDE. IT MUST NEVER BE KEPT OUT OF THE PLACES IT WISHES TO GO. YOU MUST CARE FOR IT AND TELL IT ALL YOUR DREAMS AND SECRETS.
I'LL CALL HER MISS BUNGLE!
GOOD GIRL. ENJOY YOUR NEW BEAST, AND REMEMBER TO KEEP IT WELL FED.
YOUR TIME HERE IS AT AN END, YOU FILTHY VERMIN!

THE EMERALD CITY. BELOW.
I'VE GIVEN YOU MORE THAN AMPLE TIME FOR THIS, PIPT. WHY ARE WE NOT ABLE TO FIND MORE OF THIS TOURMALINE WALL?*
GENERAL, EXCAVATION TAKES TIME.
WE HAVE ALREADY DEMOLISHED DOZENS OF FEET OF ROCK AND EMERALD IN OTHER AREAS OF THE MINE. YOU GOT CAUGHT IN ONE OF THEM, AS I RECALL.
*THE TIN MAN DISCOVERED A CHUNK OF TOURMALINE BACK IN ISSUE #1.
YOU TRIED TO KILL ME, I THINK. BUT I STILL STAND FIRM, THOUGH I TIRE OF WAITING FOR THE RESULTS OF YOUR BLASTING.
YOU SHOULD HAVE FOUND SOMETHING BY NOW. I WONDER IF YOU MIGHT BE STONEWALLING IN THE HOPES THAT SOMEONE MIGHT COME TO THE EMERALD CITY AND TRY TO STOP ME.
IF YOU THINK YOU CAN MOVE THIS PROCESS ALONG, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO LEND A HAND.
DON'T CHALLENGE ME, OLD MAN.
A LADY I MAY BE, BUT I'M NOT ABOVE DIRTYING MY HANDS TO GET WHAT I WANT!
KRAK

DAMN. PLAYED THE WRONG CARD, YOU NINCOMPOOP.
OZ. NORTH. MOMBI'S SETTLEMENT.
MMMRRR?

PBBBT!

--I'LL SHOW YOU MOMBI'S WORKSHOP.
THIS IS IT. CAN'T SAY I'M HAPPY TO SEE IT AGAIN.

STILL DON'T GET WHY GLINDA BUBBLED US ALL THE WAY OUT HERE.
COULD BE SHE THOUGHT THERE'D BE SOMETHIN' HERE TO HELP US FIND OZMA.
COULD BE SHE THOUGHT WE COULD ARM OURSELVES A BIT. HEH HEH!
I'M NOT SURE WHAT HELP I CAN BE HERE. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR.

SNIFF
SNIFF
=WHIMPER_=

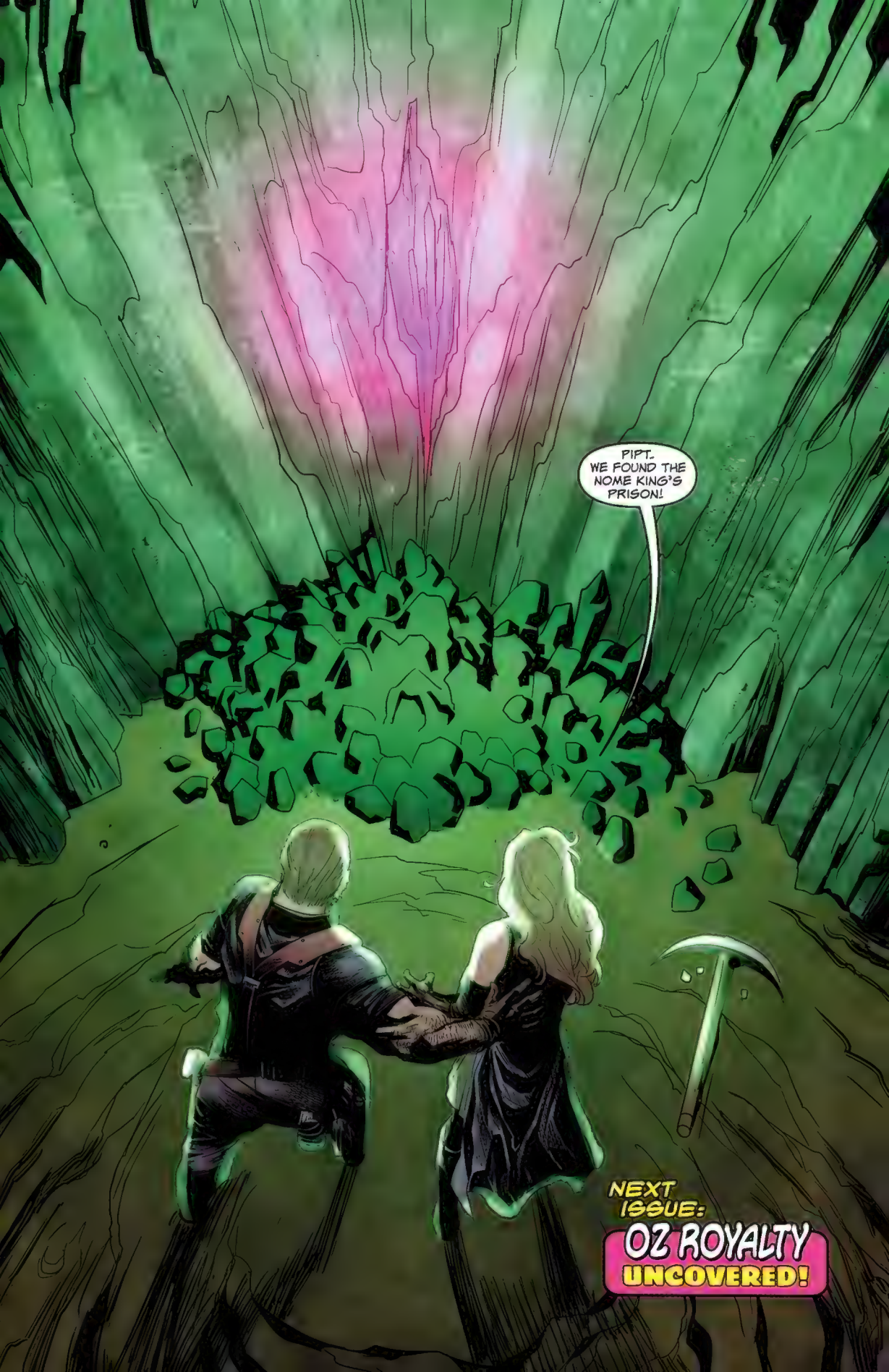
THIS IS MAKIN' ME FEEL A BIT BETTER, NOW. BUT THE THING THAT'S ON MY MIND IS THE LIVESTOCK AROUND THE FARM. SOMEONE'S GOT TO BE KEEPIN' 'EM FED AND SUCH.
FEEDIN' THE ANIMALS USED TO BE PART OF MY CHORES AROUND HERE. THAT COW OUT BACK'S AS ORNERY AS THE LAW MAN.
BUT NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THERE WERE A FEW HIRED HANDS MOMBI HAD AROUND TO PROTECT THE PLACE FROM INTRUDERS.
AND YER JUST GETTIN' AROUND TO TELLIN' US THIS NOW?
BLAM
BLAM
EVERYONE DOWN!

WHAM
GET YER TAILS OVER HERE BEHIND THE TABLE!
GOT OURSELVES BOXED IN, I THINK.. WE NEED TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET--
WELL, I'LL BE A PICKLED JACKDAW!
IT'S HER STAFF! IT'S OZMA'S STA--!
GET YOUR BACKSIDE ON THE GROUND, JACK!
BLAM
BLAM

AAARRRGH!
JAAACK!
SIT STILL. HE'LL BE FINE. GOT HIMSELF RIPPED TO PIECES BY A KALIDAH. COUPLE BULLETS AIN'T GONNA BRING HIM DOWN.
TROUBLE IS, WE GOT NO IDEA WHAT'S OUT THERE...
...AND WE GOT NO BACKUP COMING ANY TIME SOON.

KRACK
KRACK
YAAAAA!
KRACK

THAT'S IT. THAT'S ALL I HAVE.
YOU WERE RIGHT, PIPT. THIS EMERALD WALL ISN'T GOING TO GIVE UP ITS SECRETS WITHOUT A--
PIPT! LOOK!
WHAT IS IT, GENERAL? ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
PIPT. LOOK!


PIPT. WE FOUND THE NOME KING'S PRISON!
NEXT ISSUE:
OZ ROYALTY UNCOVERED!

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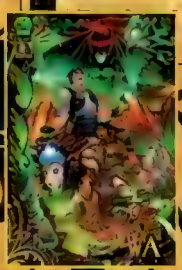
PREVIOUSLY IN THE WICKED WEST

The Wheelers stormed Glinda's castle in the south of Oz. To save her friends, the good witch transported Jack, Tip, the lion and scarecrow to Mombi's old ranch.

The first leg of the journey to find Ozma is underway, but it may be cut off prematurely.



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OZ. NORTH. MOMBI'S DESERTED RANCH.
COME ON OUT WITH YER HANDS HIGH! YER TRESPASSIN' ON PRIVATE PROPERTY!
THAT MEANS IT AIN'T YOURS, AND WE WANT YA OUTTA HERE!
THEY KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, YA IGNORANT TWIT.
I'M JUST TRYIN' TA HELP, IS ALL.
YOU CAN HELP BY KEEPIN' YER TRAP SHUT WHILE I ADDRESS THE PRISONERS.
THEY AIN'T PRISONERS YET, THOUGH.
WILL BE SOON ENOUGH.

ALRIGHT, BACK TO BUSINESS! GET ON YER FEET, AND COMMENCE TA WALKIN' OUT THIS WAY!

KEEP YER HEAD DOWN, GIRL. THEY AIN'T PLAYIN' AROUND.

JACK, SIT STILL, WOULD YA? YOU'RE HURT.

I'M FINE, TIP. BEEN HURT WAY WORSE THAN THIS IN MY TIME. BUT OL' RUST BUCKET'S RIGHT. THOSE GENTLEMEN OUTSIDE ARE OUT FOR BLOOD.

EVEN IF WE GAVE OURSELVES UP, I'M BETTIN' THEY'D JUST GUN US DOWN WHERE WE STOOD.

ESPECIALLY NOW THAT I KNOW OZMA WAS HERE.
WHAT'S THAT YOU FOUND, JACK?
THIS WAS OZMA'S WAND. NOT ONLY WAS SHE TAKEN THE NIGHT I WAS DISGRACED,* BUT SO WERE MANY OF HER PERSONAL THINGS.
LIKE HER CROWN...AND THIS WAND.
*LOOK BACK AT LEGEND OF OZ #6 FOR MORE DETAILS!
CAN I SEE IT?
I SUPPOSE. JUST...BE CAREFUL WITH IT.

WOW. IT'S....WARM. FEELS LIKE METAL, BUT IT'S KINDA GETTING TOO HOT TO TOUCH.
THAT'S WEIRD. DIDN'T FEEL WARM TO ME.
IT'S FILLED WITH NATURAL MAGIC; YOU MIGHT HAVE SOME DEEPER CONNECTION TO OZ THAN WE REALIZED, TIP MY BOY.
LET'S HAVE THAT BACK FOR NOW. TIME TO INVESTIGATE AFTER WE'VE GOTTEN OURSELVES OUT OF HERE.
IF WE GET OUT OF HERE, OF COURSE.

WE COULD PROBABLY FIND A WAY OUT THE BACK, BUT WE'D BE STUCK OUT IN THE OPEN WITH ALL THE BLASTED FIELDS SURROUNDING THIS PLACE.
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT. WE MIGHT MAKE IT LONG ENOUGH TO RUN 'EM OUT OF BULLETS.
OR MAYBE LONG ENOUGH FOR HELP TO SHOW UP. GLINDA SENT US HERE, SHE MAY POP IN.
GLINDA WOULDA BEEN HERE BY NOW, IF SHE WERE COMIN'. BUT THAT BULLET IDEA GIVES ME A THOUGHT.
I GOT NO MORE PATIENCE FOR WAITIN' AROUND! I'LL COMMENCE TA SHOOTIN' IF YA DON'T GET YERSELVES OUT HERE!
I'M A LOT STURDIER THAN I LOOK. NOT EVEN GALE'S RUBY BULLETS DID MUCH DAMAGE TO ME WHEN WE FIRST MET.
HEY...
"...WHERE'D THE GIRL GET TO?"

WELL, NOW. WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE OUR FIRST SURRENDER-ER. JUST HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, KID.
I SAID, HOLD IT! STOP RIGHT THERE, OR I'LL SHOOT YA!
HAVE IT YER WAY.
KLICK-KLICK

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
NOOOOOO!

ONE DOWN! THE REST TO GO!
BLAM
BLAM
RELOAD WHILE WE GOT 'EM SCARED.
HA HA! AIN'T NO ONE OUT HERE TA HELP 'EM, ANYWAY. JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE WE GET--
IS... IS THAT... A...?
LION?
RROOOAARRR!

THE EMERALD CITY. LIVING QUARTERS.
MEOW.
WHAT IS IT, MISS BUNGLE? HUNGRY AGAIN?
I WISH YOU'D EAT SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST THE MICE. THEY HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING TO YOU.
BUT I SUPPOSE A CAT HAS HER INSTINCTS.
I'LL LET YOU OUT FOR A BIT, BUT YOU COME RIGHT BACK AND DON'T STRAY.

SNIFF
SNIFF

WE MAY NEED MORE OF YOU, BUT FOR NOW THIS WILL HAVE TO DO.
JINJUR HAS MANAGED TO UNCOVER THE NOME KING'S PRISON. IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE WE DIG OUT THE REST OF IT AND FIND THE REMAINING LOCKS.
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE US DO, DR. PIPT?
WE NEED TO RECOVER THE DOOR. EVEN IF IT MEANS SEALING THE ENTIRE MINE.
BUT SO MANY PEOPLE WOULD BE KILLED, DOCTOR.
IF THE NOME KING WERE RELEASED, HE WOULD CAUSE MORE PAIN AND SUFFERING THAN OZ COULD EVER IMAGINE.
I AM NOT UNAWARE OF THIS PLAN'S REPERCUSSIONS, BUT WE MUST DO SOMETHING TO SLOW JINJUR DOWN.
WE UNDERSTAND, DOCTOR. WE WILL NOT FAIL IN OUR MISSION.
FAILURE IS YOUR DESTINY, *RODENT*. AND YOURS AS WELL, PIPT.

IT'S TAKEN LONGER THAN I IMAGINED, BUT WE ARE SO CLOSE TO RELEASING YOU.
THEN YOU AND YOUR FOLLOWERS WILL DESTROY THE KALIDAHS, AS OUR AGREEMENT STATES.
FINISH YOUR WORK BEFORE QUOTING AGREEMENTS, FEMALE.
YOU WILL ADDRESS ME PROPERLY, MONSTER. I AM GENERAL JINJUR, AND I AM THE RIGHTFUL RULER OF THE EMERALD CITY AND ALL OF OZ!
MANY WOULD QUESTION YOUR CLAIM TO THE THRONE, FEMALE. FOR NOW, IT IS YOURS. FOR THE FUTURE WE WILL SEE.
IF YOU THINK YOU SCARE ME, YOU ARE MISTAKEN.

KRACK
THERE, NOW. MUCH BETTER.
I HAVE THE POWER TO DESTROY YOU, AS WELL AS TO HELP YOU, NOME.
AND WE YOU, HUMAN!

PTUU!
KEEP YOUR FLESHY APPENDAGE. YOU'LL NEED IT TO CONTINUE DIGGING FOR OUR KING.
THIS TREACHERY WILL NOT BE SOON FORGOTTEN, NOME!
YOUR KIND WILL BOW BEFORE ME, JUST AS EVERYONE IN OZ DOES! EVEN YOUR KING WILL KNOW HIS PLACE WHEN HE IS RELEASED!
HIS GRATITUDE TOWARDS ME WILL BRING ABOUT THE END OF THE KALIDAHS AND A NEW AGE OF PEACE AND GRANDEUR IN THE LAND OF OZ!
WHAT THE--?
GENERAL...
...WE HAVE A PROBLEM.

LITTLE HELP, PLEASE...
GRRRR!
WHAP
UHHNNN!

KSSSHH
WELL, NOW WE KNOW WHERE THE LION ENDED UP. DARNED BEAST IS STARTIN' TA MAKE ME LIKE HIM, TOO.
OUTTA MY WAY!
ROAR!
YOU CAN'T BE DEAD!
NO...

JACK, LET'S GET OURSELVES OUTTA HERE.
JACK? DID YA HEAR ME, BOY?
SHE WAS HERE. OZMA'S STUFF IS ALL OVER THE PLACE.
EVEN HER CROWN.
"SHE LOVED THE EVER-LIVING ROSES. SHE WAS FASCINATED BY THE MAGIC OZ CONTAINED."

JACK...I KNOW YOU GOT ISSUES WITH ALL THIS OZMA STUFF, BUT WE GOTTA GIT.
JUST ONE MINUTE MORE. PLEASE.
I'LL FIND YOU, OZMA. I PROMISE.
ROAR!
AAAH!
SHE TRIED TO DISTRACT THEM. SHE TRIED TO SAVE US. AND THEY KILLED HER FOR IT.
SHE KNEW WHAT SHE WAS DOING, TIP.

IT'S NOT FAIR. THEY DIDN'T HAVE TO SHOOT HER. SHE WOULDN'T HAVE HURT THEM.
I WISH I COULD DO SOMETHING.
HEY!

YOU'RE ALIVE!
FIGURED AS MUCH.
COLLECT UP HER PARTS, AND WE CAN GET HER SEWN BACK TOGETHER.
I'M GONNA FIND JACK AND THE LION AND FIGURE OUT OUR NEXT PLAY.
WHUMP-
BUMP
GRRAAAR!

WHO ARE YOU...
...AND WHY DON'T YOU ANSWER MY CALL?
THE GORILLAS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE LINKED TO THIS GOLDEN CAP, BUT I CAN'T CALL THEM OFF.
AND I WANT TO KNOW WHY!
NEXT ISSUE:
THE WITCH AND THE GORILLAS.

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The Legend of OZ: The Wicked West

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PREVIOUSLY IN THE WICKED WEST

Mombi's old ranch has proven to be as much of a trap as it was a starting point for the search for Ozma.

With the company held hostage by a group of rogue flying monkeys, Gale has resurfaced and is intent on discovering why they do not heed her call.

Cover A: Alisson Borges - Cover B: Nei Ruffino - Cover C and D: Jesse Wichmann

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WHY...
...AREN'T...
...YOU...
...LISTENING?

THERE'S ONLY FOUR OF 'EM, GANG.
THIS WON'T BE NO PROBLEM.
HEH!

ARRRRGH!
KINGU!
KINGU!
WHERE ARE YOU?
I AM HERE... MISTRESS.

THERE'S A GROUP OF FLYING GORILLAS AT MOMBI'S OLD RANCH WHO WON'T HEED MY COMMANDS!
I THOUGHT THIS "GOLDEN CAP" WAS SUPPOSED TO GIVE ME THE POWER TO COMMAND ALL THE FLYING GORILLAS IN OZ!
A PACK OF SOLDIERS AT MOMBI'S OLD RANCH, YOU SAY?
NO...YOU WON'T HAVE CONTROL OF THEM.
NOT EVEN WITH THAT.
BUT... THE THREE WISHES!
WHOEVER OWNS THE GOLDEN CAP CAN ISSUE THREE SEPARATE COMMANDS THAT ALL OF YOUR KIND *MUST* OBEY, RIGHT?
DO YOU KNOW THE FULL LEGACY OF THE GOLDEN CAP, MISTRESS?
OR OF THE PEOPLE OF THE THREE TRIBES, BOUND TO BEND TO THE WILL OF ITS OWNER?

I AM THE FIRST EVER WITCH OF THE EAST AND THE WEST.
I KNOW ENOUGH.
HARDLY.
LET ME TELL YOU A STORY, MISTRESS...
LET ME TELL YOU THE STORY OF THE GOLDEN CAP YOU SO BRAZENLY BRANDISH, AS A CHILD WAVES A NEW TOY...
...AND THE PAIN, DESPAIR, AND COUNTLESS DEATHS IT HAS BROUGHT ABOUT TO DATE...

"...ALL BECAUSE I WAS ALSO ONCE A BIT TOO BRAZEN WITH MATTERS I DIDN'T KNOW NEARLY ENOUGH ABOUT."

I AM OFFERING YOU A CHANCE TO JOIN THE WINNING SIDE OF AN UPCOMING WAR, SIMIAN.
NO...
...WHAT YOU SEEK IS AN ARMY.

YOU ARE A WISE LEADER, KINGU.
YOUR PEOPLE ARE LUCKY TO HAVE YOU IN COMMAND.
IN FACT, YOUR WISDOM COULD SAVE THEIR LIVES IF YOU'RE SMART ENOUGH TO ORDER THEM TO TAKE MY OFFER.
YOU ARE MISINFORMED AS TO THE WAYS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE THREE TRIBES, WITCH.
I HAVE EARNED THE RIGHT TO LEAD ONLY THOSE OF THE JUNGLE TRIBE.
I DO NOT - AND CANNOT - SPEAK FOR MY COUSINS IN THE VALLEYS OR THE MOUNTAINS.
SURELY, THOUGH, YOU CAN SPEAK TO THEM...
...CONVINCE THEM THAT IT WOULD BE BEST TO CHOOSE TO JOIN ME...
...LEST THEY HAVE TO BE FORCED.
FIRST YOU TRY TO NEGOTIATE, AND THEN YOU RESORT TO THREATS?
YOU CLEARLY KNOW EVEN LESS OF THE PEOPLE THAN I THOUGHT.
CHALLENGE ME, OR BEGONE, WITCH.
YOU HAVE SEALED THE FATE OF ALL YOUR KIND, YOU GOOD FOR NOTHIN' GORILLA!

THE NEXT TIME YOU SPEAK TO ME, KINGU, IT WILL BE ON BENDED KNEE!
HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!
YOU DID WELL, BROTHER.
INDEED, BROTHER!
THE WITCH MUST KNOW THAT SHE CANNOT CROSS THE PEOPLE OF THE THREE TRIBES!
MY SISTERS... WHAT IF SHE'S AS POWERFUL AS SHE SAYS SHE IS?
SHE IS NOT, LITTLE ONE. AT LEAST, NOT YET.
IF SHE WAS, SHE WOULD HAVE ACCEPTED MY CHALLENGE FOR LEADERSHIP OF THE JUNGLE TRIBE.
OR WORSE.
PERHAPS, MY BROTHER...
...BUT WHAT IF SHE LEARNS ABOUT THE GOLDEN CAP?

NOW WE'RE GETTING SOMEWHERE.
HOW DOES SUCH A SIMPLE LITTLE TRINKET HOLD SUCH POWER OVER ALL OF YOUR KIND?
IT STARTED AS A MERE FASHION ACCESSORY...
BUT, BECAUSE OF MY FOLLY, IT BECAME AN INSTRUMENT OF POWER, TO BE USED AGAINST THE PEOPLE AT THE WHIM OF ANY WHO CAN CLAIM OWNERSHIP OF IT.
HOW?
WHY?
IT HAPPENED MANY YEARS AGO...
LONG BEFORE YOU WERE UNEXPECTEDLY WHISKED INTO OZ.

"I WAS IN MY PRIME AND HAD JUST EARNED LEADERSHIP OF THE JUNGLE TRIBE IN A FIERCE CEREMONY OF BATTLE.
"ELATED, I WAS SURVEYING THE JUNGLE TERRITORIES FROM UPON HIGH WINDS WHEN I SAW A COUPLE FROM THE SOUTHERN LANDS TRAVELLING ALONG THE KROWTOE RIVER.
"I WOULD LATER LEARN THAT THEY WERE MERELY TWO YOUNG LOVERS, SOON TO BE MARRIED, WHO MEANT NO HARM TO THE PEOPLE...
"BUT I WAS INTOXICATED WITH THE POWER OF MY NEW POSITION AND RASHLY DECIDED TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF THESE UNSUSPECTING INNOCENTS, WHO I FOOLISHLY SAW AS UNINVITED INTERLOPERS."

"I DID NOT REALIZE THAT, IN DOING SO, I WAS FOREVER SEALING NOT ONLY MY OWN FATE...
"...BUT ALSO THE FATES OF ALL THREE TRIBES OF THE PEOPLE...
"...AND THE WHOLE LAND OF OZ ITSELF."

"THE SOURCE OF MAGIC IS EMOTION, MISTRESS.
"THE STRONGER THE EMOTION, THE MORE POWERFUL THE MAGIC...
"...AND, IN MY HUBRIS, I FAILED TO REALIZE HOW ANGRY I HAD MADE GAYELETTE..."
STAY AWAY FROM HIM!

"...AND HOW POWERFUL HER MAGIC TRULY WAS.
YOU HEAR ME?
ALL OF Y'ALL!
"LISTEN TO ME, Y'ALL DAMN DIRTY APES!!!"

"THE PEOPLE OF THE JUNGLE...
"...THE PEOPLE OF THE VALLEY...
"...THE PEOPLE OF THE MOUNTAINS...
"...BECAUSE OF MY BRASH BEHAVIOR, ALL THREE TRIBES OF THE PEOPLE WERE FOREVER CONDEMNED TO BE THREE-TIMES MAGICALLY BOUND TO OBEY THE OWNER OF THE GOLDEN CAP."

BECAUSE OF MY BRASH BEHAVIOR, ALL THREE TRIBES OF THE PEOPLE WERE FOREVER CONDEMNED TO BE THREE-TIMES MAGICALLY BOUND TO OBEY THE OWNER OF THE GOLDEN CAP.
WHETHER SHE MEANT TO OR NOT, GAYELETTE CHANNELED A LOT OF HER MAGICAL ENERGY INTO THIS CAP...
...SO WHY DIDN'T SHE KEEP IT?
I CAN ONLY SPECULATE THAT, DESPITE HER TEMPER, GAYELETTE WAS ONE OF THE FEW MAGIC USERS OF OZ WHO HAD NO INTEREST IN CONQUEST.
ANGRY AND HUMILIATED, SHE MERELY WANTED THE PEOPLE OF THE THREE TRIBES TO LEAVE HER AND HER SOON-TO-BE-MATE ALONE.
SHE USED HER FIRST MAGICAL COMMAND TO MAKE SURE THAT HAPPENED.
WHAT HAPPENS ONCE THE OWNER OF THE GOLDEN CAP USES ALL THREE MAGIC COMMANDS?
UPON THE THIRD COMMAND, MISTRESS, THE OWNER OF THE GOLDEN CAP WILL NO LONGER HAVE ANY LEVERAGE OVER ANY OF US.

I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO REMIND YOU THAT I HAVEN'T EVEN USED MY FIRST COMMAND YET, KINGU, SO DON'T START GETTING ANY FUNNY IDEAS.
OF COURSE NOT, MISTRESS...
WHAT ABOUT THOSE FOUR GORILLAS BACK AT THAT ABANDONED OLD RANCH?
IF I'M NOW THE OWNER OF THE GOLDEN CAP, WHY ARE THEY WILLING TO IGNORE ME AND FACE MY WRATH?
IF YOU WERE TO USE ONE OF YOUR THREE MAGICAL COMMANDS THEY WOULD HAVE TO OBEY...
PROBABLY.

HOW DARE YOU!
I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO WASTE ONE OF MY THREE COMMANDS JUST TO GET FOUR OF YOU MANGY SERVANTS TO LISTEN!
I AM YOUR LEADER NOW!
YOU DO, BY VIRTUE OF OWNING THE CAP, LEAD MOST OF US, MISTRESS...
...BUT NOT THE FOUR SOLDIERS AT THE RANCH.
IF THEY DON'T WORK FOR ME, THEN WHO DO THEY WORK FOR?
MOMBI.

MOMBI?
THE FORMER WICKED WITCH OF THE NORTH?
I DO BELIEVE CERTAIN PARTIES REFER TO HER BY THAT TITLE, MISTRESS.
HOW DID SHE GET COMMAND OVER FOUR OF YOU...
...YOUR PEOPLE?
THE FORMER MISTRESS... "BEQUEATHED"... MY FOUR COUSINS - FOUR OF THE MIGHTIEST WARRIORS OF THE MOUNTAIN TRIBE - TO MOMBI, TO PROTECT SOMETHING OF SPECIAL VALUE
PERHAPS IT WAS SOMETHING OF VALUE TO HER, AS WELL?

MAYBE...
BUT WHAT WOULD MOMBI HAVE HAD THAT WAS SO IMPORTANT THAT THE WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST WOULD GIVE FOUR OF HER BEST WARRIORS TO ANOTHER WITCH PROTECT IT?
THAT I DO NOT KNOW, MISTRESS...
...BUT I DO KNOW THAT, IF YOUR FRIENDS HAVE CROSSED PATHS WITH THEM, THEY WILL MOST LIKELY BE IN FOR MUCH MORE OF A CHALLENGE THAN THEY MAY HAVE INITIALLY EXPECTED...

WHAT WAS THAT YOU WERE SAYIN' ABOUT HOW THIS WASN'T GOIN' TO BE NO CHALLENGE, TIN MAN?
IS THIS REALLY THE TIME, PUMPKINHEAD?
REALLY?
TO BE CONTINUED...

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THE WICKED WEST

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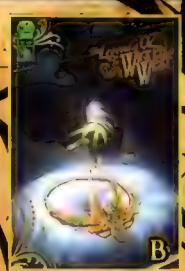
PREVIOUSLY IN THE WICKED WEST

Jack, Pumpkinhead, the Scarecrow, Tip and the Lion have been captured by a rogue band of flying monkeys. But the Witch of the East and West, Dorothy Gale, is unable to control them.
The history of the Flying Monkeys of Oz continues...



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HMPH.
THAT WAS EASY.
THAT'S THE QUESTION, I RECKON...
YEAH... BUT WHY'RE THEY EVEN HERE?
WE SHOULD JUST KILL 'EM AND BE DONE WITH IT.

NAW.
WE'RE WAITIN' FOR WORD FROM THE MASTER.
MAYBE, BUT THE MASTER HASN'T BEEN 'ROUND FOR MONTHS!
AIN'T NOBODY BEEN 'ROUND HERE IN MONTHS!
WE'RE WAITIN' TO HEAR FROM THE MASTER!
UNTIL THEN, THEY'RE REMAININ' OUR PRISONERS!
I JUST AIN'T LIKIN' THIS AT ALL...
YEAH... YOU SHOULDN'T...

HEH.
WHAT IS THE STATE OF MY FR --
ERR...
...THE GROUP AT THE RANCH?
THEY WERE DEFEATED, MISTRESS...
GO ON...
BUT THEY ARE ALIVE.
FOR NOW, AT LEAST.

THIS NEWS PLEASES ME, KINGU.
THANK YOU.
OF COURSE, MISTRESS.
YOU TOLD ME THE ORIGIN OF THE GOLDEN CAP, BUT NOT HOW THE WICKED WI--
--THE FORMER WITCH OF THE WEST ACQUIRED IT.
TELL ME HOW THAT HAPPENED.
WHAT COMES NEXT INVOLVES DETAILS OF BETRAYAL, MISTRESS, INCLUDING FROM MY CLOSEST KIN.
IT IS NOT SOMETHING I WISH TO DIVULGE.
I DIDN'T ASK HOW YOU FELT ABOUT IT.
VERY WELL, MISTRESS.

"VERY WELL, MISTRESS."
AND THEN SHE FLEW AWAY LAUGHING, SAYING THAT WHEN SHE RETURNED SHE'D TAKE CONTROL OF US ALL!
IT WAS PROBABLY A IDLE THREAT, WASHA.
KINGU SHOWED THAT HE AND THE PEOPLE ARE NOT SCARED OF HER, AND SHE SIMPLY DID WANT TO BE SEEN LEAVING WITH HER TAIL BETWEEN HER LEGS.
BUT JONGU, MY LOVE, WHAT IF SHE LEARNS ABOUT THE GOLDEN CAP?
THERE IS NO WAY SHE COULD KNOW OF THE INTERLOPER FROM THE SOUTH AND THAT VILE WEAPON SHE POSSESSES.

A WEAPON?
SOMEONE HAS A WEAPON THOSE FILTHY ANIMALS FEAR?
A-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!
HEE-HEE-HEE-HEE-HEE-HEE-HEE!

YOU THINK SHE FOUND OUT ABOUT THE GOLDEN CAP BY SPYING ON YOU?
SHE HAD THE TOOLS TO DO SO, DID SHE NOT?
JUST AS YOU NOW USE THOSE SAME TOOLS TO MONITOR YOUR FORMER TRIBE?
THEY'RE NOT - WEREN'T - MY TRI--
FORGET IT.
YOU THINK THAT'S HOW SHE FOUND OUT ABOUT THE CAP, THEN? BY EAVESDROPPING ON YOUR SISTER, WASHA, WAS IT?
SHE COULD HAVE LEARNED ABOUT THE GOLDEN CAP BY MONITORING ANY ONE OF US, BUT WASHA AND HER MATE WERE THE ONES MOST... VERBAL... ABOUT THEIR CONCERNS.

WASHA HAS A REASON TO BE CONCERNED, KINGU.
IF THE WITCH LEARNED OF THE GOLDEN CAP, WHAT POSSIBLE DEFENSE WOULD WE HAVE?
NONE.
EXACTLY!
YET YOU SIT HERE AS IF THE LIVES OF NOT ONLY THIS TRIBE, BUT ALL THE PEOPLE, ARE IN NO DANGER!
ARE YOU CHALLENGING ME, JONGU?

NO, KINGU... I...
I AM ONLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE FATE OF THE PEOPLE IN THE FACE OF THIS NEW DANGER.
I HAVE SENT MESSENGERS TO THE CHIEFTAINS OF THE TRIBES OF THE VALLEY, AS WELL AS THE MOUNTAINS, TO ALERT THEM ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED HERE.
I HAVE ALSO SENT A MESSENGER TO OUR FRIENDS IN THE WINKIE KINGDOM, ASKING FOR THEIR HELP IN APPROACHING GAYELETTE ABOUT RELINQUISHING THE GOLDEN CAP TO US, TO ENSURE HER SAFETY, AS WELL AS OUR OWN.
CLEARLY YOU ARE GIVING THIS MATTER THE ATTENTION IT DESERVES, KINGU. BUT IF I MAY ASK...
WHILE THE WINKIES HAVE BEEN LOYAL FRIENDS AND ALLIES OF THE PEOPLE FOR GENERATIONS, IS IT WISE TO ENTRUST THEM WITH SUCH A POWERFUL WEAPON THAT COULD BE USED AGAINST US?
DUE TO THE POWER OF HER WEAPON, THE PEOPLE CANNOT DIRECTLY APPROACH GAYELETTE...
BUT ONE WINKIE WILL GO EXPLAIN THE DANGER SHE PUTS HERSELF IN BY KEEPING THE GOLDEN CAP...

HAVE YOU YET PICKED ONE OF THE PEOPLE TO ACCOMPANY THE WINKIE AND BRING BACK THE GOLDEN CAP, CHIEFTAIN?
NOT YET...
THEN LET ME BE THE ONE TO DO IT.
GAYELETTE...
I KNOW THAT NAME...

LYSTERO, ON BEHALF OF ALL THE PEOPLE, WE THANK YOU, AND ALL OF THOSE IN WINKIE COUNTRY, FOR COMING TO OUR AID IN OUR HOUR OF NEED.
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THE PEOPLE AND THE WINKIES HAVE ENJOYED GENERATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP, KINGU.
MY LEADER WANTED ME TO TELL YOU HE WAS HONORED THAT THE PEOPLE TRUSTED US ENOUGH TO HELP YOU ON THIS MOST IMPORTANT TASK.
AS YOU KNOW, THE PEOPLE CANNOT APPROACH GAYELETTE, AND SHE HAS VERY FAIR REASONS TO SCORN US, EVEN IF WE COULD...
BUT WE BELIEVE THAT SHE WILL PROVE RECEPTIVE TO RELINQUISHING THE GOLDEN CAP TO YOU, SO THAT IT MAY BE RETURNED TO US, ONCE YOU EXPLAIN THE GRAVITY OF THE THREAT THE WITCH OF THE WEST PROVES NOT ONLY TO HER AND THE PEOPLE, BUT THE WHOLE LAND.
SO... YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH THE WINKIES, EH?
INTERESTING...

JONGU, MATE OF MY SISTER WASHA, WILL ACCOMPANY YOU ON THIS QUEST, LYSTERO.
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
LYSTERO, ONCE YOU ACQUIRE THE GOLDEN CAP FROM GAYELETTE, YOU MAY GIVE IT TO JONGU, WHO WILL THEN RETURN IT FROM THE SOUTHERN COUNTRY TO THE PEOPLE.
GO, AND MAY THE WIND BE WITH YOU BOTH.

HA-HA-HA-
HA-HA-HA!!!

ARE YOU SURE THIS BASKET WILL HOLD ME FOR THE WHOLE TRIP, MY NEW FRIEND?
THE PEOPLE ARE RENOWNED FOR THEIR BASKET MAKING THROUGHOUT THE LAND, ARE THEY NOT?
THAT IS TRUE, YES...
WELL, WASHA AND HER TWO SISTERS ARE SOME OF THE BEST BASKET- MAKERS OF ALL THE PEOPLE!
HAVE NO FEAR, THIS BASKET WILL HOLD YOU FOR THE DURATION OF OUR JOURNEY.
IT HAS TO.

I APOLOGIZE AGAIN THAT YOU HAVE TO TRANSPORT ME LIKE THIS, JONGU.
WE REALLY COULD HAVE TAKEN A CARRIAGE OF SOME SORT, YOU KNOW...
IT IS QUITE ALRIGHT.
EVEN WITH THESE NECESSARY BREAKS, THIS IS MUCH QUICKER THAN TRAVELLING BY LAND.
VERY WELL. I AM READY WHEN YOU ARE.
IF THE WIND CONTINUES TO STAY WITH US, WE SHOULD BE THERE IN ONE MORE TRIP.

JONGU AND LYSTERO WERE TOO LATE, OF COURSE.
"THE PEOPLE - I... ACTED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, BUT IT WAS NOT QUICKLY ENOUGH.
"THE WITCH OF THE WEST HAD THE GOLDEN CAP...
"...MEANING SHE HELD THE FATE OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN HER HANDS..."

"...LEAVING THE PEOPLE ONLY THE HOPE THAT SHE DID NOT YET KNOW WHAT IT DID, OR HOW TO USE IT."

IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU GUYS BOTHERED TO GET IN HERE!
WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?
WE TOOK OUR LUMPS OUT THERE TOO, IN CASE YOU DIDN'T NOTICE!
YEAH! WE'RE JUST LUCKY THOSE BIG GORILLAS DIDN'T STOMP ON US!
OR EAT US!

OKAY, OKAY... I GET IT.
YOU GUYS DID GOOD, OKAY?
THAT'S BETTER.
INDEED. WE CAN'T ALL BE MADE OF METAL, YOU KNOW!
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE DON'T HAVE SOMETHING TO OFFER!
YER DARN RIGHT YA' DO.
FER STARTERS, YOU CAN CUT ME LOOSE!
THOSE BIG OL' BEASTIES GOT LUCKY THE FIRST TIME, BUT I GOT A PLAN FOR HOW WE CAN TAKE 'EM OUT FOR GOOD ONCE WE WAKE EVERYONE UP.
WE GOT LUCKY, HUH?

I RECKON IT'S A GOOD THING Y'ALL HAVE A PLAN, THEN, HUH?
TO BE CONTINUED...

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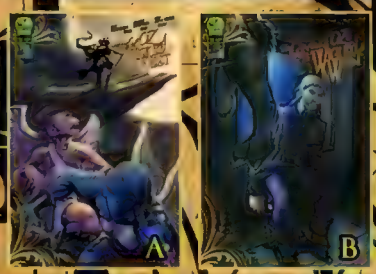
PREVIOUSLY IN THE WICKED WEST

Gale has heard the beginning of the story of the Flying Monkey's subservience to the Witch of the West.

The magical Golden Cap now controls the monkeys, but in the hands of the Witch, the Cap is would be the most dangerous weapon in Oz



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THANGG
GAH!

I FORGOT WHAT TOUGH SKIN YA' HAVE, OLD-TIMER...
I FIGURED YOU AND YOUR KINDA VARMINTS WOULD BE USED TO THICK SKULLS BY NOW...
I RECKON I CAN KEEP THIS UP LONGER THAN YOU CAN.
I DOUBT THAT.
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD? THE OLDER THE BUCK, THE HARDER TH--
NOPE.

THEY'RE ALL STILL UNCONSCIOUS.
AIN'T NO ONE IN THERE EVEN SO MUCH AS BREATHIN' HARD.
"LOOKS LIKE THE OLD MAN WAS JUST TALKIN' TO HIMSELF..."
THAT TRUE, OLD MAN?
DID WE BEAT YA DOWN SO BAD YA STARTED TALKIN' TO YOURSELF?
HA! I'VE BEEN SLAPPED BY BARMAIDS HARDER THAN YOU PUNCH, YA FLEABAG!

GRAAAAAAH!
YOU BRAVE MAN..
YOU BRAVE, BRAVE, STUPID MAN...

SO, ONCE YOUR BROTHER-IN-LAW AND HIS FRIEND FAILED IN GETTING TO THE GOLDEN CAP BEFORE THE WITCH, THAT WAS IT THEN?
HARDLY.
"HER RETRIEVAL OF THE GOLDEN CAP WAS MERELY THE BEGINNING OF THE END..."
JONGU, LYSTERO, YOU BOTH DID YOUR BEST TO HELP THE PEOPLE, AND I THANK YOU FOR YOUR EFFORT.
YOU MAY GO NOW.

KINGU, PLEASE DON'T BE ANGRY!
JONGU AND THE WINKIE DID THEIR BEST, I'M SURE OF IT!
ANGRY?
YOU THINK THAT I AM ANGRY, SISTER?
NO... I AM NOT ANGRY...
I AM AFRAID.
I AM AFRAID FOR ALL THE PEOPLE...
...AND ALL OF OZ.

"UPON RECEIVING THE NEWS OF THE FAILURE, I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO REPORT IT TO THE CHIEFTAINS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE VALLEY AND THE MOUNTAINS.
"IF THE PEOPLE WERE TO HAVE ANY HOPE OF STOPPING THE WITCH OF THE WEST, WE WOULD HAVE TO DO SO UNITED."
WAIT A MINUTE...
YOU ALWAYS REFER TO YOUR... KIND... AS "THE PEOPLE."
WEREN'T YOU ALL ALREADY UNITED?
NO.
WHILE THE PEOPLE ARE THE PEOPLE, WE HAVE ALSO BEEN THREE SEPARATE TRIBES, WITH THREE SEPARATE LEADERS, FOR GENERATIONS.

"THE CHIEFTAINS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE VALLEY AND THE MOUNTAINS WERE BOTH AWARE OF MY PLAN, BUT THEY DID NOT INTERFERE BECAUSE THE WITCH APPROACHED ME FIRST.
"THEY ALLOWED ME TO HANDLE THE SITUATION, BUT AFTER MY FAILURE I WAS AT THEIR MERCY REGARDING HOW TO PROCEED."
OUR ATTEMPT AT DEFENSE FAILED.
I SUGGEST THE PEOPLE NOW BECOME PROACTIVE AND CONFRONT THE WITCH DIRECTLY, STOPPING HER BEFORE SHE USES THE WEAPON AGAINST US.
YOU SUGGEST THE PEOPLE ATTACK THE WITCH?
KNOWING SHE HAS THE WEAPON?
WOULD YOU BOTH RATHER THE PEOPLE WAIT FOR HER TO BRING DESTRUCTION DIRECTLY TO THE PEOPLE AND THEN ALL THE LAND?

WE CAN ONLY HOPE TO RECLAIM THE GOLDEN CAP, AT WHATEVER NECESSARY COST TO THE PEOPLE, BEFORE SHE IS ABLE TO USE IT AGAINST US...
OBVIOUSLY, THOSE FILTHY PRIMATES FEAR YOU...
BUT WHAT DO YOU DO, MY PRETTY?
WHAT... DO... YOU DO?
I GUESS I SHOULD HAVE ASKED GAVELETTE BEFORE I TURNED HER AND HER HUSBAND INSIDE-OUT!
HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU DO, MY PRETTY...
...BUT ONE OF THOSE PESKY BEASTS DOES, OH YES...
ONE OF THEM WILL TELL ME WHAT I NEED TO KNOW...
SHOW ME WHO, MY PRETTY...

"...SHOW ME WHO WILL TELL ME HOW TO CONQUER THE APES AND BEND THEM TO MY WILL WITH THIS BLASTED BAUBLE!"
YOU DID YOUR BEST, HUSBAND. I'M SURE KINGU AND THE OTHER CHIEFTAINS KNOW THIS...
I DID THE BEST I COULD. WHAT IS THE WORST THAT CAN COME OF THAT?
WE HAD THE WIND AT OUR BACK AND DID ALL WE COULD, WASHA.
THERE WAS NO WAY OF KNOWING THE WITCH WAS AWARE OF THE WEAPON AND COULD FIND IT SO QUICKLY.
GU...

I AM NOT GOING TO MINCE WORDS.
THE CHIEFTAINS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE MOUNTAINS AND THE VALLEY ARE NOT HAPPY WITH OUR FAILURE.
THEY BELIEVE YOU SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN TO THE WEAPON BEFORE THE WITCH, EVEN WITH THE WINKIE IN TOW.
ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU VOLUNTEERED ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE JUNGLE.
KINGU, WE TRAVELLED AS FAST AS POSSIBLE AND ARRIVED TO DISCOVER THE WITCH HAD BEATEN US TO THE WEAPON BY MERE HOURS AT MOST.
WERE I TO MAKE THE JOURNEY A THOUSAND MORE TIMES, I WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO ARRIVE THERE ANY QUICKER.
I KNOW THIS, JONGU, AND THIS MAKES WHAT I AM HERE TO SAY ALL THE MORE DIFFICULT.
PLEASE RISE.
KINGU... BROTHER... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHAT IS HAPPENING?

THE OTHER TWO CHIEFTAINS HAVE AGREED TO MY PLAN TO DIRECTLY CONFRONT THE WITCH OF THE WEST AND TAKE THE WEAPON.
THE WITCH WAS ALREADY FORMIDABLE ENOUGH WITHOUT THE GOLDEN CAP, BUT NOW THAT SHE HAS IT, WE EXPECT THERE TO BE MASSIVE CASUALTIES AMONG THE PEOPLE WHEN WE SET OUT TO RETRIEVE IT.
YOU EXPECT JONGU TO GO WITH THE FORCES WHO WILL FACE THE WITCH OF THE WEST?
BROTHER! JONGU, WHILE BRAVE, IS NO WARRIOR!
NO, WASHA... JONGU WILL NOT BE EXPECTED TO JOIN THE SIEGE ON THE WITCH OF THE WEST.
DO YOU HEAR THAT? YOU ARE SAFE AFTER ALL!
KINGU HAS PROTECTED YOU FROM THE WRATH OF THE OTHER CHIEFTAINS!
NOT QUITE.

THE PEOPLE OF THE JUNGLE WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR RETRIEVING THE WEAPON.
WE FAILED, AND NOW ALL THE PEOPLE WILL SUFFER FOR IT.
THE CHIEFTAINS OF THE MOUNTAINS AND THE VALLEY DEMAND RESTITUTION FOR THE CASUALTIES THE PEOPLE ARE SURE TO SUFFER.
JONGU IS TO RETURN WITH BOTH CHIEFTAINS IMMEDIATELY AS A SIGN OF OUR ACCEPTANCE OF OUR FAILURE.
I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
HOW CAN JONGU RETURN WITH BOTH CHIEFTAINS TO THEIR HOMELANDS AT THE SAME TIME?
NO...
NO!
NO!
NO!

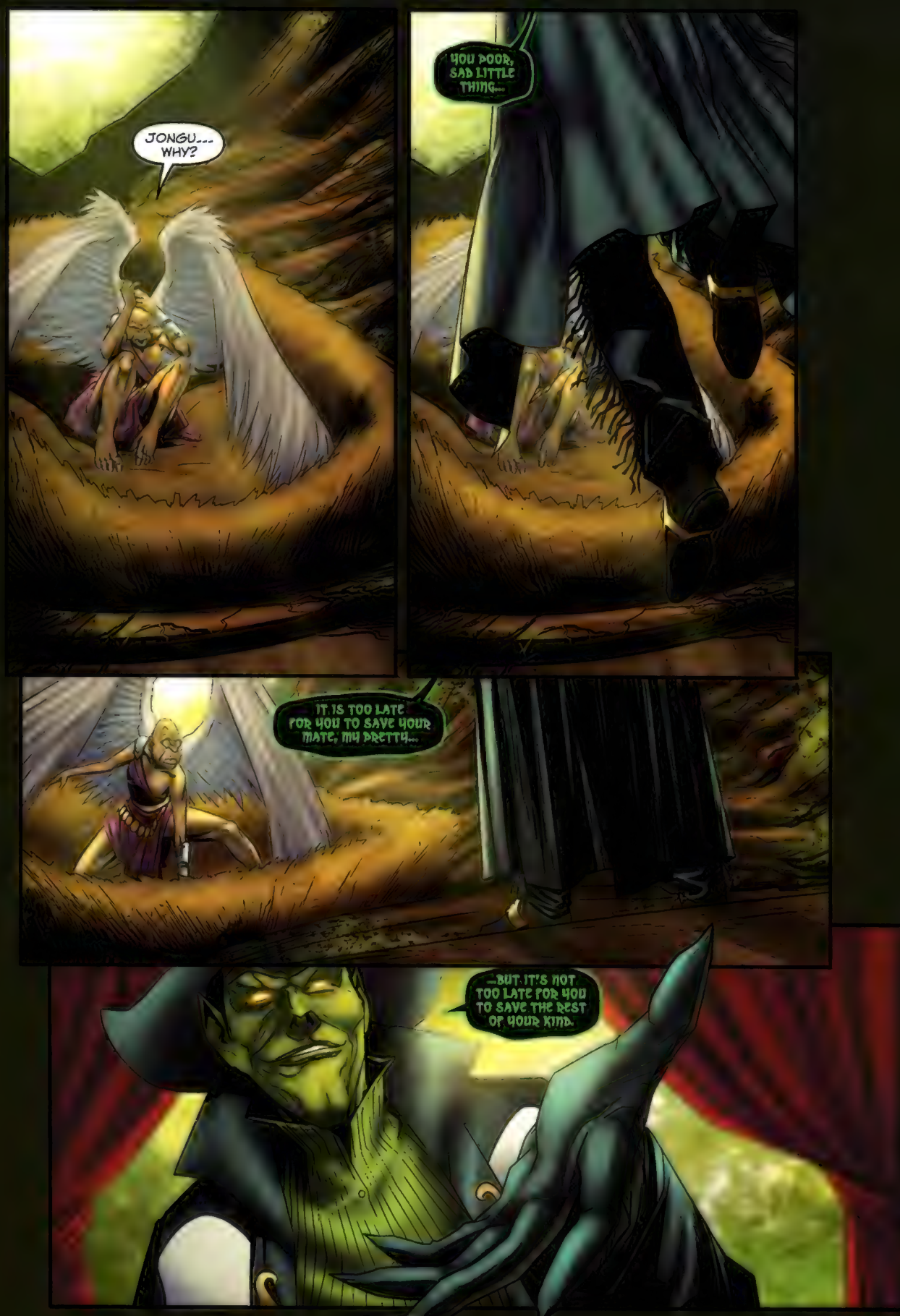
YOU WERE WILLING TO LET YOUR BROTHER-IN-LAW GET KILLED TO MAKE UP FOR YOUR MISTAKE?
I DID NOT MAKE A MISTAKE, MISTRESS.
HE VOLUNTEERED TO HELP THE PEOPLE, AND HE FAILED.
AS SUCH, HE HAD TO PAY THE PRICE.
YEAH, BUT *YOU'RE* THE REASON THE GOLDEN CAP EXISTS IN THE FIRST PLACE.
AND I PAY THE PRICE FOR MY MISTAKE EVERY DAY...
...MISTRESS.

BE THAT AS IT MAY, HE WAS YOUR FAMILY, KINGU...
...HE WAS THERE FOR YOU WHEN YOU NEEDED HIM...
...BUT YOU ABANDONED HIM...
...LEFT HIM TO DIE.
...HOW DO YOU JUSTIFY DOING THAT?

HEH.
PART OF BEING A LEADER, MISTRESS, IS MAKING SACRIFICES.
BEING A LEADER MEANS ASKING YOURSELF NOT ONLY WHAT YOU'RE WILLING TO HOLD ONTO, BUT WHAT YOU'RE WILLING TO LET GO...

SHHH...
KINGU! BROTHER!
THERE HAS TO BE ANOTHER WAY!
PLEASE!
THIS IS THE WAY AND WILL OF THE PEOPLE, WASHA.
HOW LONG DO I... WE... HAVE?
THEY EXPECT YOU IMMEDIATELY, SO THEY MAY RETURN TO THE PEOPLE AND MAKE THEIR OWN PREPARATIONS.
JONGU... I WILL MAKE YOUR PASSING AS PAINLESS AS POSSIBLE.
THE CHIEFTAINS HAVE ALSO PROMISED ME YOUR REMAINS WILL BE RETURNED TO THE EARTH AFTER YOUR PRESENTATION TO THE PEOPLE.
PLEASE HURRY.

WASHA, MY LOVE, I MUST GO.
NO-NO-NO-NO-NO--
I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WOULD MAKE A WONDERFUL MOTHER SOME DAY...
PLEASE... PLEASE... PLEASE...
AND I HOPE SOMEDAY YOU STILL WILL.
NOT LIKE THIS... PLEASE...
JONGUUUUUUUU!!!


JONGU... WHY?
YOU POOR, SAD LITTLE THING...
IT IS TOO LATE FOR YOU TO SAVE YOUR MATE, MY PRETTY...
...BUT IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR YOU TO SAVE THE REST OF YOUR KIND.

JUST TELL US WHY Y'ALL CAME HERE, OLD MAN!
"THAT'S WHAT MOST DON'T UNDERSTAND ABOUT LEADERSHIP, MISTRESS.
"GIVING ORDERS AND COMMANDING OTHERS IS EASY.
"IT IS LIVING WITH THE CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR DECISIONS...
PTEW
HOW ABOUT YOU GO SKIN YOURSELF AND MAKE ME A NICE RUG?
RAAAGHH!!!
"...HOWEVER TERRIBLE THE OUTCOME.
ROOOOOAR!!!
OOF!
"...IS THE TRUE TEST OF A LEADER'S METTLE."
"THAT, MISTRESS...

OKAY...
...I'LL ADMIT THAT I FELT THAT ONE...
SHERRIFF! YOU GOTTA GET UP!
THAT VOICE...
...CAN'T BE...
YOU AIN'T GONNA LET US ALL DIE AGAIN, ARE YA?
TO BE CONCLUDED!

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The Legend of OZ:
THE WICKED WEST

BASED ON CHARACTERS CREATED BY L. FRANK BAUM

The Legend of Oz: The Wicked West

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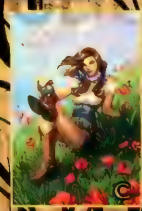
PREVIOUSLY IN THE WICKED WEST

The story behind the Golden Cap and its control over the Flying Monkeys of Oz is nearly complete.

With the Cap in the hands of the Witch of the West, the Monkeys must now obey her commands...no matter what her orders may be.



Cover A: ALISSON BORGES - Cover B & C: NEI RUFFINO

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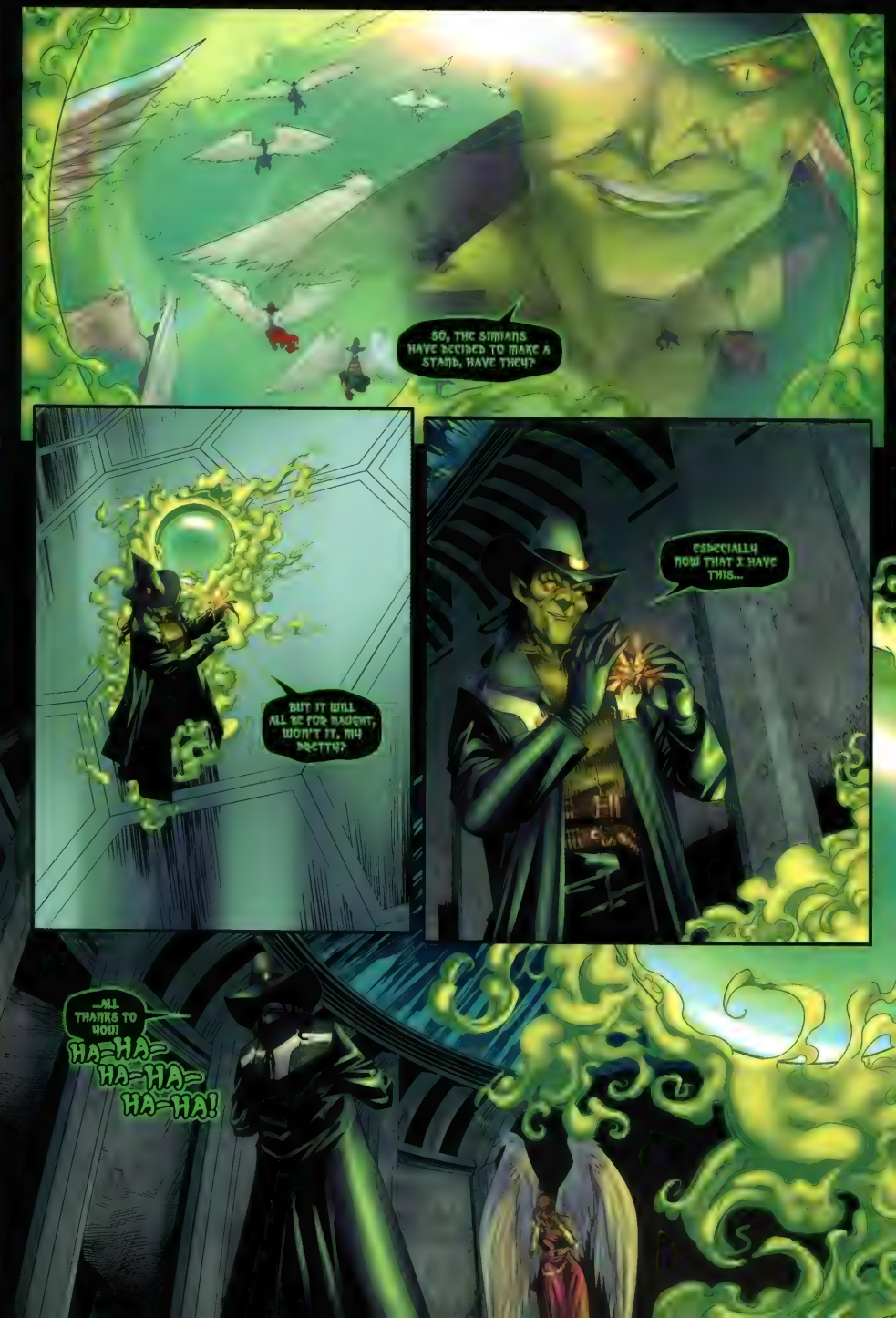
CAN'T BE...
YOU'RE DEAD...
YOU'RE ALL DEAD!!
RRRRR...
YOU'RE ALL DEAD!!

"WHAT I'M WILLING TO LET GO," HUH?
"BEING WILLING TO LIVE WITH THE CONSEQUENCES OF MY DECISIONS," HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY, KINGU?
THAT I SHOULD JUST LET MY FRIENDS DIE?!
NO, MISTRESS.
I AM SAYING THAT BEING A LEADER MEANS KNOWING WHEN TO FIGHT TO HOLD ON TO SOMETHING...

"...AND WHEN TO LET GO."
KINGU!
WASHA IS NOT IN HER NEST!
WE CAN NOT FIND HER ANYWHERE, AND NO ONE HAS SEEN HER FOR DAYS!
SHE IS STILL GRIEVING THE LOSS OF JONGU.
WE WILL NOT HOLD THIS AGAINST HER, MY SISTERS.
BESIDES...

"....DO WE NOT ALREADY HAVE A LARGE ENOUGH ARMY?"


SO, THE SIMIANS HAVE DECIDED TO MAKE A STAND, HAVE THEY?
BUT IT WILL ALL BE FOR NAUGHT, WON'T IT, MY PRETTY?
ESPECIALLY NOW THAT I HAVE THIS...
—ALL THANKS TO YOU!
HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!

YOUR SISTER SOLD YOU OUT TO THE WITCH?
SHE SOUGHT ONLY TO DO WHAT SHE BELIEVED WAS RIGHT, MISTRESS.
BE WE LEADERS OR SLAVES, WE MUST ALL DO WHAT WE THINK IS RIGHT---
---NO MATTER HOW INCONVENIENT OR PAINFUL IT MAY BE.
SO WHAT HAPPENED THEN?
WHEN YOU FACED THE WITCH, NOT KNOWING SHE KNEW HOW TO USE THE GOLDEN CAP?
ARMAGEDDON.

BZZZZZZZZZ ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ
THAT'S IT, CREATURES...
...FLY TO ME...
...FLY TO YOUR NEW MASTER!
BLAMM
AHHH-HA-HA-HA-HA!
BRACE YOUR-SELVES!
YOU CANNOT HOPE TO FELL US ALL WHEN WE DESCEND UPON YOU, WITCH!
RELINQUISH YOUR WEAPONS AND I PROMISE YOU A PAINLESS AND HONORABLE DEATH!
ARE YOU TRULY THAT STUPID, YOU FILTHY PRIMATE?
WHY WOULD I SURRENDER TO YOU DISGUSTING ANIMALS WHEN I HAVE THIS?
YOUR DECEPTION RINGS HOLLOW, WITCH!
IF YOU KNEW HOW TO USE THE WEAPON, SURELY YOU WOULD NOT ATTACK US WITH INSECTS!
THAT WAS JUST A WARNING SHOT, OAF!
IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR SISTER TELLING ME HOW THE GOLDEN CAP WORKED, I PROMISED HER I'D GIVE YOU ALL A CHANCE TO SURRENDER, FIRST.
WASHA?
NO...

PLEASE, KINGU, SUBMIT.
IT'S THE ONLY WAY...
YOUR LIES GROW TIRESOME, WITCH!
SURRENDER THE WEAPON TO THE PEOPLE, LEST WE DESCEND UPON YOU LIKE THE PALTRY INSECTS YOU LOB AT US!
I TOLD YOU HE WAS GONNA NEED A DEMONSTRATION, WHELP...
NO! PLEASE! YOU AGREED TO SPARE THEM!
I NIL PROMISE TO SPARE YOUR PEOPLE, YES...
BUT I DIDN'T PROMISE NOTHIN' ABOUT SPARING ANY OF YOUR LITTLE FRIENDS IN WINKIE COUNTRY, DID I?

"THEY NEVER SAW US COMING...
"...AND THEY NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO PREPARE.
"NOT THAT IT WOULD HAVE MATTERED, EVEN IF THEY DID.
"OUR NEW MISTRESS'S COMMAND WAS VERY SPECIFIC..."

"...THE PEOPLE WERE TO LEAVE NO SURVIVORS."
AHHH -HA-HA-HA-
HA-HA-HA!

"WHEN THE DEED WAS DONE, SHE TOLD THE PEOPLE THAT IF WE EVER TRIED TO HARM HER, OR LET ANY HARM COME TO HER, SHE WOULD USE HER SECOND COMMAND TO UNLEASH THE PEOPLE AGAIN...
"...THIS TIME ON ALL OF OZ.
"AND WITH HER THIRD COMMAND SHE WOULD ORDER THE PEOPLE TO DESTROY EACH OTHER.
"THAT EVENING THE PEOPLE MOURNED THE LOSS OF BOTH THE WINKIES AND OUR FREEDOM IN THE ONLY WAY WE COULD.
"IT IS A TRADITION THE PEOPLE WILL CONTINUE UNTIL WE ARE FINALLY FREE ONCE AGAIN.
"FOR BETRAYING THE PEOPLE, WASHA WAS "REWARDED" BY BEING SENT AWAY - ALONG WITH MY OTHER TWO SISTERS - TO LIVE AS HUMAN SPIES IN A REMOTE AND DISTANT CORNER OF OZ.
"I HAVE NOT SEEN OR HEARD FROM ANY OF THEM SINCE."

THAT IS THE STORY OF THE GOLDEN CAP, AND OF THE PEOPLE, MISTRESS.
LATER, YOU ARRIVED AND KILLED OUR FORMER MISTRESS. NOW YOU POSSESS THE GOLDEN CAP AND CONTROL THE FATE OF THE PEOPLE...
...AND PERHAPS ALL OF OZ.
NOW THAT YOU KNOW THE PLIGHT OF THE PEOPLE, MISTRESS, I ASK YOU: WHAT NEXT?
WHAT WILL BE THE FATE OF THE PEOPLE?
AND OF OZ?
I...
I HAVE OTHER MATTERS TO ATTEND TO RIGHT NOW, KINGU.
SO BE IT...
...MISTRESS.

THEY SAVED ME, AND I FAILED THEM!
CLANG CLANG
CLANG CLANG
BUT I AIN'T GONNA FAIL THEM AGAIN!
GOTCHA!
NO!
NOT AGAIN!
THANGG
GAH!

I WON'T REST 'TIL EACH AND EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU MANGY APES ARE DEAD, YA' HEAR ME?
I SWEAR IT!
NOW... ONE AT A TIME OR ALL AT ONCE, VARMINTS.
MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO ME.
I THOB YA' SERBBED HIM!
WHERE'B THAB AX COME FROB?
AND WHERE'B ALL THAB WINB COMIN' FROB?

KRA-
KOOM

YOU THREE. REPORT TO THE CASTLE.
IMMEDIATELY.
WHY SHOOB WE LISSEN TO YOU?
BLAM
BECAUSE I'M NOT GOING TO ASK TWICE.

I'M NOT SURE WHAT I SHOULD DO FIRST...
...THANK YA', OR START ASKIN' YA' THE MILLION QUESTIONS I GOT RUNNIN' THROUGH MY MIND.
THE FIRST THING YOU SHOULD DO IS GO UNTIE EVERYONE IN THE RANCH.
SO YOU SAW EVERYTHING HAPPENIN', EH?
IF THAT'S SO, WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG TO COME HELP US?
I...
I'VE GOT A LOT OF RESPONSIBILITIES NOW.
"RESPONSIBILITIES," HUH?
SO WHERE'S THAT LEAVE YOU AND US?

UH-HUH.
YOU KNOW WE'RE STILL YOUR FRIENDS, RIGHT?
SPEAKING OF FRIENDS, YOU MAY WANT TO KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON TIP.
EVERYTHING'S NOT WHAT IT SEEMS WITH... THAT ONE.
LOOKS LIKE THERE'S A LOT OF THAT GOIN' AROUND LATELY.
YEAH... I GUESS THERE IS.

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The Legend of Oz: The Wicked West

BASED ON CHARACTERS CREATED BY L. FRANK BAUM

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artist
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Kate Finnegan

letters
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design
Rob Duenas

edits
Kari Castor

PREVIOUSLY IN THE WICKED WEST

Dorothy Gale has claimed the mantle of the Witch of the East as well as the West.

With the Flying Monkeys at her side and the control of two hemispheres of Oz, Gale's connection to Oz has never been stronger...or more dangerous.

COVER A: ALISSON BORGES - COVER B: NEI RUFFINO

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THOSE MONKEYS HAD US DEAD TA RIGHTS. WHAT HAPPENED?
WHERE ARE THEY GOING?
THEY'RE FLYING HOME.

OR AT LEAST, WHAT SERVES AS HOME FOR THEM NOW.
YIKES! WHO'RE YOU?
HELLO AGAIN!
I THINK YOU'VE GROWN A LITTLE SINCE WE WERE LAST TOGETHER.
OHHH... YOU MUST BE THAT GALE GIRL THE OLD MAN'S BEEN TELLING ME ABOUT.
MORE OR LESS.
I NEED TO TALK TO TIP ALONE FOR A FEW MINUTES. IS THAT ALRIGHT?

SO YOU KNOW MY NAME. YOU KNOW WHERE I CAME FROM.
S-SORTA.
WELL, I'M DIFFERENT NOW. I'M NOT THE LITTLE GIRL THAT SHOWED UP HERE AND LANDED A BARN ON THE WITCH OF THE EAST.
I'M THE WITCH NOW. THE WITCH OF THE EAST...
...AND WEST.
CAN'T SAY I'M IMPRESSED. WITCHES AND ME DON'T GET ALONG TOO GOOD.
I'M NOT HERE TO HURT YOU, TIP.
I ONLY NEED TO DO ONE THING.

WHAT DOES SHE THINK SHE'S DOIN'?
DON'T WORRY, JACK. GALE AIN'T GONNA HURT HIM.
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
SHE'S DIFFERENT, THAT'S NOT BEIN' ARGUED. BUT UNDERNEATH ALL THAT BLACK DRESSING, SHE'S STILL GALE.
NOT GOOD ENOUGH.
HEH.
THIS OUGHTA BE GOOD.
EVERYTHING ALRIGHT HERE, TIP?

HE'S FINE, JACK.
I THINK I'D RATHER HEAR IT FROM HIM.
YOU WILL. BUT NOT TILL I'M GONE.
YOU GOT MY HAT DIRTY, JACK.
I DON'T GIVE A--
HEY! WHAT GIVES?
YOU'RE BEING SAVED FROM YOURSELF.
I HATE BUBBLES.

I'VE HEARD THAT BEFORE. I HOPE YOUR DISLIKE OF BUBBLES IS NOT DUE TO YOUR RECENT ACQUISITION OF THE ONYX PISTOL.
I'VE GOT MY OWN REASONS. I DON'T NEED HERS, TOO.
YOU ARE PLAYING A DANGEROUS GAME, GALE. I DON'T THINK YOU UNDERSTAND THE RAMIFICATIONS OF POSSESSING BOTH--
BACK OFF, WITCH!
YOU'VE GOT NO LEG TO STAND ON, PRETENDING TO BE CONCERNED FOR MY WELL-BEING WHILE YOU SEND MY FRIENDS ON A QUEST ACROSS OZ THAT'S ONLY GOING TO GET THEM HURT... OR WORSE!

GALE, THE QUEST IS JACK'S. YOUR FRIENDS ARRIVED WITH HIM, AND THEY AGREED TO JOIN HIM OF THEIR OWN FREE W--
YOU SAY 'FREE WILL' AND I'LL SHOOT YOU WHERE YOU STAND.
YOU SENT THEM HERE. YOU. THEY DIDN'T ASK FOR IT.
YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEM NOW. DON'T LET ME DOWN...
...OR I MIGHT DECIDE TO CONTINUE ADDING TO MY GUN COLLECTION.
I'VE DONE WHAT I CAME HERE TO DO. THE REST IS UP TO YOU.

WELL, TIP?
W-WHAT?
DON'T PLAY DUMB, PARTNER. TELL US WHAT GALE TOLD YA.
WELL, I CAN HARDLY REMEMBER. IT WAS LIKE SHE WAS TALKIN' THROUGH ME. NOT TO ME.
ALL I REMEMBER IS HER SAYING, "WHEN YOU NEED ME, CALL OUT. I'LL BE THERE."

WELL, GOOD. AS LONG AS IT ALL MAKES SENSE...
NONE OF THAT MATTERS. WE KNOW WHERE WE HAVE TO GO NOW. MOMBI OBVIOUSLY HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH OZMA'S DISAPPEARANCE.
THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE SOMETHING I REALLY WANT TO DO JACK.
GOTTA BE DONE, TIP. OZMA NEEDS OUR HELP. YOURS INCLUDED.
NOW SEEIN' AS NONE OF US HAS A CLUE WHERE MOMBI MIGHT BE, WE'RE GONNA NEED YOUR HELP IN THIS AREA, GLINDA.
WHAT'S WITH THE BUBBLES?
BUBBLES MEAN WE GOT LEFT BEHIND. GLINDA'S POPPED HERSELF OFF TO WHO KNOWS WHERE.
ME 'N' THE LION ARE GONNA GET OUT OF THE HEAT WHILE YOU FIGURE OUT YER NEXT PLAY, 'CAUSE I GOT A FEELIN' THAT GLINDA WON'T BE SHOWIN' BACK UP HERE FOR A WHILE.

OZ. WESTERN JURISDICTION. HIGH NOON.

OH, MY.
HOW--?

HEY! YER NOT SUPPOSED TA BE IN HERE!
SLAM
HE'S RIGHT. YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE.
I WASN'T EXPECTING COMPANY.
YOU TOOK YOUR TIME GETTING HERE.

TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED.
I USED THE RUBY BULLETS, JUST LIKE YOU TOLD ME.*
*SEE ISSUE #6 OF THE NOW-CLASSIC MINI-SERIES!
I OPENED A DOORWAY HOME. TO KANSAS. SHE FOLLOWED, AS I HOPED SHE WOULD.
SHE WAS POWERLESS, BUT STILL VICIOUS. I FOUND HER WEAKNESS...
THAT'S ALL THAT WAS LEFT OF HER.

I DO NOT NEED MY PEARL WAND TO KNOW THAT IS NOT ENTIRELY TRUE.
THE GUNS ARE MINE. OZ MADE THE RULES, NOT ME.
AND I'VE BEEN PRACTICING.
BUT YOU NOW CARRY BOTH THE EAST AND WEST WEAPONS. IT WAS NEVER INTENDED TO HAPPEN THIS WAY.
ONCE YOU KILLED THE WITCH OF THE EAST, YOU BECAME HER REPLACEMENT. AS IS THE LAW IN OZ.
BUT TO CARRY BOTH EAST AND WEST SIMULTANEOUSLY WILL ONLY HASTEN YOUR LOSS OF BOTH.
YOU ARE ALREADY DESTINED TO TRAGEDY AS THE WITCH OF THE EAST; DO NOT LET THE WEST DARKEN WHAT LIFE YOU HAVE LEFT.

DON'T TOUCH THAT!
AND EXPLAIN YOURSELF, WITCH! WHAT DO YOU MEAN I AM "DESTINED TO TRAGEDY?"
SURELY BY NOW YOU'VE EXAMINED THE HISTORY OF THOSE WHO HAVE COME BEFORE YOU.
YOU MUST SEE THE SIMILARITIES TO YOUR OWN APPEARANCE HERE IN OZ, AS WELL AS YOUR CURRENT STANDING.
I KNOW WHAT YOU'VE TOLD ME. I KNOW WHAT I'VE DONE. THE RUBY HILT ON THE PISTOLS... THE RUBY BULLETS...
THEY WORK TOGETHER TO OPEN DOORWAYS TO OTHER WORLDS.
I KNOW I FELL OUT OF THE SKY WHEN A TORNADO SCOOPED ME AND TOTO UP IN THE BARN. AND I KNOW WE FELL ON THE WITCH OF THE EAST IN MUNCHKINLAND.

WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME THE REST. WHO WAS SHE?
SHE WAS THE LATEST IN A STRING OF CASUALTIES. SHE WAS STRONG. BRAVE. KIND-HEARTED.
AND SHE WAS DOOMED. FROM THE MOMENT SHE ACCEPTED THE GUN AND BULLETS OF THE WITCH OF THE EAST, SHE BECAME PART OF THEIR TRAGIC LEGACY.
"YOUR PREDECESSOR ARRIVED JUST AS ALL THE OTHERS HAD.... FROM THE SKY.
"HER CONVEYANCE APPEARED IN THE NIGHT SKY AS THE THEN-WITCH OF THE EAST PRACTICED HER SKILLS WITH THE PISTOL AND BULLETS.
"I THINK YOU CAN IMAGINE THE RESULT, SEEING AS YOU NEARLY DUPLICATED THE EVENT YOURSELF."

"SHE WAS RATTLED, BUT ESSENTIALLY UNHARMED.
"THE MUNCHKINS CAME TO HER AID, AS THEY DID FOR YOU AND TOTO.
"BUT UNLIKE YOU, SHE DID NOT DESIRE TO FIND A WAY HOME. SHE WAS AN EXPLORER AND ADVENTURER. SHE REMAINED IN MUNCHKINLAND TO HELP THOSE WHO HAD HELPED HER.
"SHE WAS KNOWN SIMPLY AS AMELIA."

UNTIL YOU ARRIVED.
ME? YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE I DROPPED MY BARN ON HER ON PURPOSE!
YOU TOLD ME SHE WAS WICKED! THAT SHE HAD ENSLAVED THE MUNCHKINS!
BUT NOW, ONCE AGAIN, YOU'RE CHANGING YOUR STORY AND TELLING ME SHE WAS ACTUALLY A GOOD WITCH?
AMELIA WAS GOOD. FOR A TIME.
BUT LIKE ALL HER PREDECESSORS, SHE WAS CORRUPTED IN THE END. THE WITCHES OF THE WEST HAVE ALWAYS BEEN INFLUENTIAL ON THE SOUTH, NORTH AND EAST.
IN THE END I WOULD SAY SHE WAS NOT TRULY WICKED. SHE WAS... CURIOUS. HER NATURE SENT HER OFF IN DIRECTIONS MOST WOULD NOT CONSIDER REASONABLE.
IN FACT, YOUR ARRIVAL IS WHAT SAVED HER FROM THE DARK.

ANOTHER FACT IS THAT THERE HAS NEVER, IN THE HISTORY OF THE WITCHES OR OF OZ ITSELF, BEEN A SINGLE PERSON IN CONTROL OF MORE THAN ONE JURISDICTION.
THE BALANCE OF POWER IS SHIFTED TOO FAR IN YOUR FAVOR.
FACT NUMBER THREE, YOU GOODIE TWO-SHOES, IS THAT IF I WERE TO GIVE YOU EVEN ONE OF MY SETS OF PISTOLS AND BULLETS, YOU WOULD THEN HAVE THE BALANCE OF POWER SHIFTED TOO FAR IN YOUR FAVOR!
SEEMS AS THOUGH YOUR MAGIC WAND AGREES WITH ME.
LOOKS LIKE YOUR TIME'S UP, GLINDA, SO LET ME MAKE THIS VERY CLEAR.
TINK
TINK

THERE ARE WAY TOO MANY PEOPLE IN OZ WITH THEIR OWN PERSONAL AGENDAS.
JINJUR, JACK, MOMBI...
...EVEN YOU, I'D BET.
SO I'LL KEEP IT NICE AND FAIR.
I'LL ONLY USE ONE SET. BUT IF YOU WANT WHAT'S MINE...

...YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO PRY THEM FROM MY COLD, DEAD HANDS!
NEXT ISSUE:
RISE AND FALL

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TOM HUTCHISON
WRITER
CARLOS RENO
ARTIST
KATE FINNEGAN
COLORIST
The Legend of OZ
THE WICKED WEST

BASED ON CHARACTERS CREATED BY L. FRANK BAUM

The Legend of OZ: The Wicked West

writer
Tom Hutchison

artist
Carlos Reno

colors
Kate Finnegan

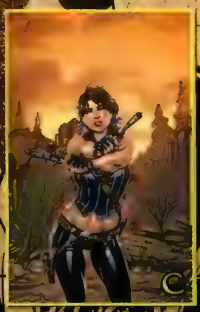
letters
HDE

design
Rob Ducas

edits
Kari Castor

PREVIOUSLY IN THE WICKED WEST

Dorothy Gale is now the witch of both the EAST and WEST. Never before has one person had jurisdiction over so much of Oz...



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OZ: WEST. DOROTHY GALE'S JURISDICTION.
ONE OF THEM, ANYWAY.
IF YOU WANT THE RUBY PISTOLS SO BADLY, GLINDA, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO TAKE 'EM FROM ME.
THAT WOULD NOT BE MY WISH, GALE.
THE RUBY GUNS HAVE A TRAGIC HISTORY THAT WILL FOLLOW YOU FOR AS LONG AS YOU CARRY THEM.*
THEIR POWER IS TOO MUCH FOR NEARLY ANYONE IN OZ, MUCH LESS A NOVICE. AS YOUR PREDECESSOR PROVED.
I AM HERE ONLY TO HELP. TO RELIEVE YOU OF THEIR BURDEN.
*SEE THE SAD STORY PRESENTED TO GALE LAST ISSUE!

SO, SUDDENLY, AFTER FOUR YEARS, YOU DECIDE IT'S TIME TO HELP ME BY SACRIFICING YOURSELF?
TO LESSEN MY BURDEN OF CARRYING WHAT SEEMS TO ME TO BE THE MOST POWERFUL SET OF PISTOLS OF THE FOUR?
HOW NOBLE OF YOU.
AND WHAT ABOUT THE SUPPOSED BALANCE OF POWER YOU TOLD ME ABOUT?
HOW IT WAS NEVER INTENDED FOR A SINGLE PERSON TO HOLD MORE THAN ONE SET OF THE JEWELLED GUNS?
YOU SURE SEEM ALRIGHT WITH THE BALANCE SHIFTING IN YOUR DIRECTION, DESPITE THE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS THE RUBY GUNS MIGHT GIVE YOU.
YOUR WAND SEEMS TO THINK I'M TELLING THE TRUTH.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'VE DONE TO DESERVE SUCH POOR TREATMENT FROM YOU, GALE.
FROM THE MOMENT YOU ARRIVED, I TRIED ONLY TO HELP YOU RETURN HOME.

IF THE DAY COMES THAT I MUST TAKE THE GUNS FROM YOU FORCEFULLY, I WILL DO SO.
IN THE END, IT COMES DOWN TO THIS. YOU DO NOT BELONG HERE!
YOU HAVE SERVED YOUR PURPOSE IN OZ AND SHOULD RETURN TO YOUR WORLD!
UNTIL THEN, JUST REMEMBER WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED FROM YOUR DEFEAT OF THE WITCH OF THE WEST...
NO-ONE MOURNS THE WICKED!

OZ. THE EMERALD CITY.
ABOVE.
WE MUST ACT TODAY MY FRIENDS. THE NOME KING'S PRISON IS BEING FURTHER EXCAVATED EVERY MINUTE THAT WE DELAY.
WE ARE ALREADY WORKING OUR WAY THROUGH THE TUNNELS, DR. PIPT. WE WILL BE READY.
BUT WHAT OF THE HUMANS IN THE TUNNELS?
THE MEN ARE AWARE OF WHAT IS PLANNED. THEY WILL ESCAPE WITH AS MANY WOMEN AS THEY CAN GATHER IN THE CONFUSION.
THERE IS NO DOUBT THERE WILL BE CASUALTIES, BUT FOR THE GREATER GOOD, THIS MUST BE DONE.
WILL WE NOT ALSO LOSE OUR CONNECTION TO THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ?
YES, WHAT OF THE WIZARD? WE CANNOT SIMPLY LET HIM BE BURIED!
IF ALL GOES AS PLANNED, AND YOU DIG WHERE YOU HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO, THE WIZARD WILL BE MORE THAN SAFE.
YOU HAVE MY WORD.

THE EMERALD CITY.
BELOW.
YOUR SUPPOSED ALLY BETRAYS YOUR CAUSE, GENERAL.
THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR US, DR. PIPT.
PIPT WAS NEVER AN ALLY, MOMBI. MERELY A NECESSARY EVIL TO ASSIST US IN THE DISCOVERY OF THE NOME KING'S PRISON.
BUT WHAT CAN THESE MICE BE UP TO? DIGGING ABOUT TO COLLAPSE THE TUNNELS? THAT SEEMS TO BE QUITE AN EXTREME MEASURE.
THE ACTIONS OF DESPERATE BEINGS ARE OFTEN EXTREME. PERHAPS A DEMONSTRATION OF POWER IS REQUIRED TO KEEP THE MEN IN PLACE.
OR PERHAPS A SIMPLE REWARD...
IT HAS COME TO MY ATTENTION, GENTLEMEN, THAT OUR TUNNELS HAVE BECOME INFESTED.
RODENTS HAVE BEEN FOUND IN ALL OF THE TUNNELS OF LATE, AND THEY WILL HINDER OUR PROGRESS IN QUITE HARMFUL WAYS IF THEY ARE ALLOWED TO RUN LOOSE.
AND SO, I OFFER A REWARD FOR THE CAPTURE... OR EXECUTION...OF ANY AND ALL RODENTS WITHIN THESE TUNNEL WALLS.
FOR EVERY MOUSE ROUNDED UP, ITS CAPTOR WILL RECEIVE ONE EMERALD STONE TO BE DEPOSITED INTO HIS PERSONAL ACCOUNT UPON THE COMPLETION OF OUR DIG.

"NOW GET TO WORK!"
CLANK!
EEP!
UNBELIEVABLE.
ETHON? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
GENERAL JINJUR IS PAYING EMERALDS FOR THE MICE, PIPT. THIS IS HOW WE CAN TAKE CARE OF OUR FAMILIES WHEN THIS IS OVER.
ETHON, I KNOW THIS IS HARD TO UNDERSTAND, BUT THERE WILL BE NO FUTURE FOR US IN OZ IF WE RELEASE THE NOME KING FROM HIS PRISON. THE MICE ARE HERE TO HELP US KEEP HIM BURIED!
PIPT, JINJUR MUST HAVE SOME WAY TO HANDLE HIM ONCE HE'S RELEASED. OTHERWISE, WHY WOULD SHE WANT HIM OUT?
THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY I CAN'T PASS UP, MY FRIEND.

YOU DULLARD!
JINJUR HAS NO MEANS TO CONTROL THE NOME KING! SHE SIMPLY WANTS HIS HELP IN DESTROYING THE KALIDAHS!
IT'S PERSONAL VENGEANCE SHE'S OUT FOR, AND SHE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT ANYONE IN THESE TUNNELS!
NOW LET THAT MOUSE GO!
EEEP!
GOOD BOY. NOW SPREAD THE WORD. LET THE MICE GET BACK TO WORK. WE'RE ALMOST READY.
YES, DOCTOR.
NOW, HOW ON EARTH DID JINJUR CATCH WIND'A ALL THIS?

ABOVE.
YOU SURE ARE PRETTY AFTER YOUR BATH, MISS BUNGLE.
PRRRRR.
I SET OUT A FRESH SAUCER OF CREAM FOR YOU, MISS BUNGLE. I HOPE YOU LIKE IT.
IT WILL DO.
M-MISS BUNGLE?
DID YOU JUST... TALK?

SUCH A SIMPLE THING YOU ARE.
IT WILL BE SUCH A SHAME TO HAVE YOUR HOME AND FAMILY DESTROYED IN THE COMING DAYS, BUT I WILL PUT IN A GOOD WORD FOR YOU WITH MOMBI.
THAT WAY, JINJUR WILL ALLOW YOU TO CONTINUE TO CARE FOR ME.
MISS BUNGLE, WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?
THE MICE WILL BURROW THEIR WAY THROUGH THE TUNNELS AND COLLAPSE THEM, WHICH WILL BRING ALL OF THE EMERALD CITY ABOVE DOWN TO FILL IN THE TUNNELS.
OR, IT IS POSSIBLE THE MICE WILL BE CAUGHT AND KILLED AND SAUTEED AND SKEWERED AND SEASONED...
PARDON ME.
IT'S POSSIBLE THE MICE WILL BE STOPPED AND THE NOME KING WILL BE RELEASED AND HE WILL DESTROY THE EMERALD CITY HIMSELF.
BUT EITHER WAY, THE EMERALD CITY WILL BE GONE WITHIN THE DAY.

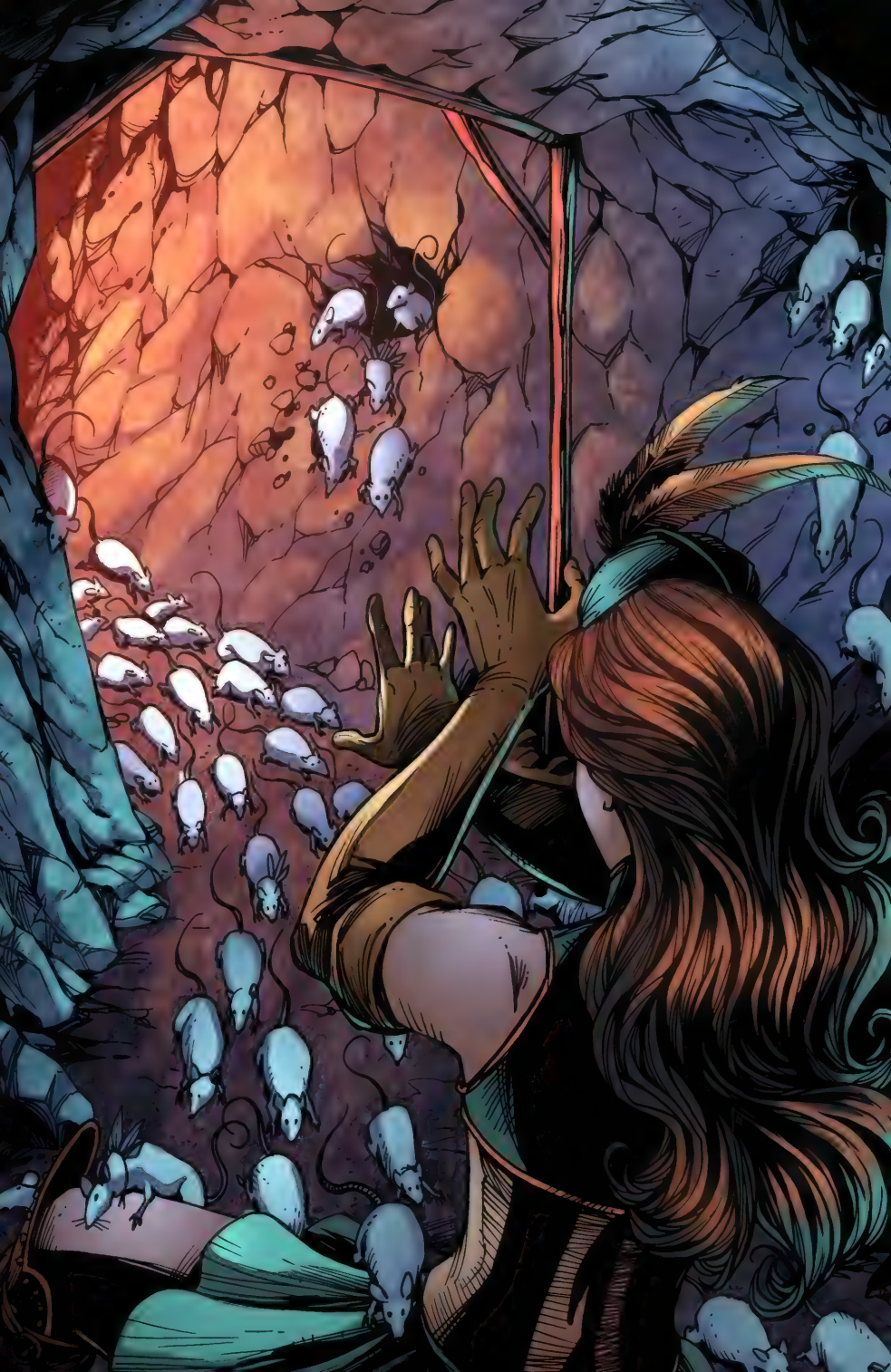
DO YOU THINK COLLAPSING THE TUNNELS WILL BE ENOUGH?
WON'T THEY SIMPLY START DIGGING AGAIN AND LEAVE US NO FURTHER COUNTERMEASURES?
IT IS A GOOD POINT, BUT WHAT CHOICE DO WE HAVE?
DR. PIPT HAS ALREADY PUT THE PLAN INTO MOTION, AND, AT THE VERY LEAST, IT WILL GIVE US TIME TO FIND A MORE PERMANENT SOLUTION.

I BELIEVE I HAVE ALREADY FOUND ONE.
IN MY TRAVELS NEAR THE WIZARD'S TOWER, I NOTICED A GREAT AMOUNT OF WATER BOTH BENEATH AND BEHIND THE TUNNELS OF THE MINE.

WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT?

IF WE FLOOD THE TUNNELS INSTEAD OF BURYING THEM, THE PEOPLE WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO RETURN TO THE MINE, AND THEY WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO REACH THE NOME KING.

AT THIS RATE, WE SHOULD FIND THE DOOR TO THE NOME KING'S PRISON IN DAYS.
WELL DONE, GENTLEMEN.
I WONDER WHO DISCOVERED YOUR WEAKNESS ALL THOSE YEARS AGO. THE ROCK KING IMPRISONED BY THAT WHICH HE CAN HIMSELF CREATE.
QUITE THE MYSTERY, THIS TOURMALINE WALL...
GAH!
DISGUSTING!
WHERE WERE THEY GOING IN SUCH A--?
PASTORIA'S BEARD!



WHERE ARE YOU ALL GOING?
THE WORD HAS BEEN GIVEN, DR. PIPT!
FOLLOW US TO SAFETY!
EEEP!
THE ORDER WAS MINE TO GIVE! WHAT HAVE YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE DONE HERE?
TIME TO TALK LATER, DR. PIPT!
OWW!
WHAT HAVE YOU ALL GONE AND DONE?

I CANNOT ABIDE THOSE FILTHY CREATURES.
THE GROUND... MOVES?
FWOOOSH
TAKE MY HAND, GENERAL.
MOMBI?
NO TIME...

FWOO OSH
DR. PIPT! RUN!
GET TO THE ELEVATORS!
NO!

PAPA! WHERE ARE YOU?
OOOF!
DAMN MICE. GONNA KILL US ALL!
SCRAPS!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, MY DEAREST?
OH, PAPA! WHAT'S HAPPENING? THE MEN SAY THE EMERALD CITY IS FALLING!

NO. NOT FALLING.
"THE EMERALD CITY IS RISING!"

RUN SCRAPS!
UP THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD!
HOLD HERE, DAUGHTER. WE SHOULD BE SAFE ENOUGH ON THE ROAD.
PAPA...

...LOOK!

THERE WAS AN ACTUAL EMERALD CITY?
UNDERGROUND?
THERE ARE MANY THINGS IN OZ THAT YOU ARE UNAWARE OF, GENERAL.
MOMBI, LOOK!
"THERE IT IS! THE NOME KING WILL BE FREE AT LAST!"
NEXT ISSUE:
THE KING AND I!

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CARLOS RENO
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BASED ON CHARACTERS CREATED BY L. FRANK BAUM

The Legend of OZ: The Wicked West

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Tom Hutchison

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colors
Kate Finnegan

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HDE

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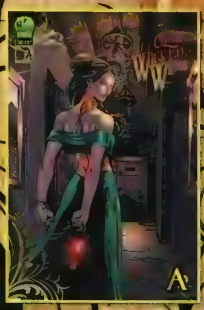
Rob Ducnas & J. Wellmann

edits
Kari Castor

PREVIOUSLY IN THE WICKED WEST

The Emerald City is risen, and with it, the hopes, dreams and nightmares of Oz. The Nome King's prison stands revealed and the search for Ozma seems to be at a standstill.



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IT WAS FELT ALL ACROSS OZ.
NORTH.
SOUTH.
EAST.
WEST.
GLINDA AND JACK HAD BETTER FIGURE OUT THE PIECES TO THEIR PUZZLE QUICKLY...

"...OR OZ WILL FALL AS QUICKLY AS THE EMERALD CITY HAS RISEN."
THE EMERALD CITY. CENTRAL JURISDICTION OF OZ.
A SIGHT THAT HAS NOT BEEN SEEN IN NEARLY A HUNDRED YEARS.

THE DAMNED MICE. THEY THOUGHT THEY KNEW BETTER.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, PAPA?
THE MICE WERE SUPPOSED TO DIG AROUND THE MINING TUNNELS AND COLLAPSE THEM. BUT THEY FOUND THE WATER WAYS AND THOUGHT THEY COULD FLOOD THE TUNNELS INSTEAD.
THE WATER FILLED THE TUNNELS, ALRIGHT, BUT ALSO FILLED THE RESERVOIR BELOW THE CITY AND BROUGHT IT TO THE SURFACE.
IT'S BEAUTIFUL, PAPA!
THAT IT IS, SCRAPS...
"... BUT ABOVE GROUND, IT BRINGS A DANGER WE WON'T BE ABLE TO CONTROL."
IT'S IMMENSE! NO WONDER WE HAD SUCH A HARD TIME FINDING ITS EDGES.
YOU DID IT, GENERAL! YOU FOUND THE NOME KING'S PRISON!
THAT IS CREDIT I CANNOT TAKE, LISSETTE. IN TIME, WE WOULD HAVE UNCOVERED THE PRISON. OF THAT THERE IS NO DOUBT.
BUT THIS... MOMENT...
THIS EVENT...
THIS IS PIPT'S DOING, AND I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO THANK HIM OR SHOOT HIM.

"THE EMERALD CITY HAS BEEN MISSING FOR OVER A HUNDRED YEARS. BUT IT WAS RIGHT UNDER OUR FEET ALL ALONG.
"I DON'T KNOW HOW KING PASTORIA DID IT...
"...BUT SOMETHING THIS ELABORATE WOULD HAVE REQUIRED POWERFUL MAGIC.
"WHERE IS MOMBI, BY THE WAY?"

SHE WAS HERE!
WHAM!
OZ. NORTH.
MOMBI'S RANCH.
OZMA WAS HERE, AND MOMBI WAS OBVIOUSLY PART OF THE KIDNAPPING PLOT.
YEAH. AND?
"AND?"
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "AND?"
"AND" IMPLIES A QUESTION AS TO WHAT YOU'D LIKE US TA DO WITH THAT BIT OF INFORMATION, JACK.
JACK WANTS US TO GO AFTER MOMBI.
RRRRRMPH.

THE EMERALD CITY.
I DIDN'T THINK CLEANUP WAS PART OF YOUR JOB DESCRIPTION, MOMBI.
I DO WHAT IS NECESSARY, GENERAL.
BUT EVEN I CANNOT TAKE THE FINAL STEP.
THE PRISON IS HEAVILY SECURED ON ALL SIDES, AND THIS TOURMALINE HAS BEEN MAGICALLY REINFORCED. YOUR EXPLOSIVES WILL NOT HAVE MUCH EFFECT ON IT.
WE BOTH KNOW THIS PRISON IS RUMORED TO HAVE BEEN BUILT BY THE TINKERS. IT WON'T BE OPENED WITHOUT THE TWEMTY-FOUR INDIVIDUAL KEYS FOR EACH OF ITS LOCKS.
AND WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO ABOUT THAT?
FIND THEM, OF COURSE.

MOMBI'S RANCH.
YOU DISGUST ME, TIN MAN. YOU TOOK A VOW TO UPHOLD THE LAW IN OZ, AND NOW WHEN YOU HAVE THE CHANCE TO BRING PRINCESS OZMA'S ABDUCTORS TO JUSTICE...
...YOU SIT ON YOUR REAR AND LIGHT UP A CIGAR.
SOUNDS 'BOUT RIGHT TA ME.
THIS IS YER THING. I'VE GOT MY OWN ISSUES TA DEAL WITH.
PRINCESS OZMA IS THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS CURRENTLY. ESPECIALLY NOW THAT WE'VE GOT A VERY REAL DIRECTION TO FOLLOW.
MOMBI IS THE KEY TO FINDING WHERE OZMA WENT AND WHERE SHE IS NOW. ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS FIND HER AND GET HER TO TALK.
ONE OF THOSE ACTIONS WILL BE SIMPLE.
HUH?

THE OTHER, HOWEVER, WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT.
AND DEADLY.
I DON'T THINK THAT DIFFICULT AND DEADLY ARE WHAT ME 'N' THE LION ARE LOOKIN' FOR RIGHT NOW.
THE RULES OF THE GAME HAVE CHANGED THIS DAY. THE EMERALD CITY IS RISEN ONCE MORE, AND THE NOME KING'S PRISON STANDS BARE AS A NEWBORN WHIMSIE.
THE NOME KING'S RELEASE IS ASSURED, THOUGH WE DO NOT KNOW EXACTLY WHEN JINJUR WILL FIND HER WAY IN.
THIS IS NO LONGER A QUEST FOR THE MISSING PRINCESS.
THIS IS A RACE TO SAVE ALL OF OZ. FOR ONLY OZMA HAS THE POWER TO DEFEAT THE NOME KING AND UNITE THE WITCHES ONCE MORE.
IF WE DO NOT FIND HER IN TIME, THE NOME KING AND HIS ARMY OF ROCK SOLDIERS WILL CONTROL THE FOUR CORNERS OF OZ WITHIN DAYS OF HIS RELEASE.

EMERALD CITY. JINJUR'S QUARTERS.
SOMEWHERE IN THIS MESS IS A SATCHEL FILLED WITH THE KEYS OF THE TINKER SOLDIERS THAT WERE SCATTERED ACROSS OZ WHEN THE NOME KING WAS IMPRISONED.
YOU MEAN TO TELL ME YOU STOLE THE VERY LIFE FROM THE SOLDIERS?
WITHOUT THEIR KEYS, THEY WOULD HAVE WOUND DOWN AND BECOME LITTLE MORE THAN ELABORATE ORNAMENTS.
"THE TINKER SOLDIERS WERE CREATED TO SAFEGUARD THE KEYS TO THE NOME KING'S PRISON.
"WHILE THEY WERE GIVEN KEYS TO THEIR OWN BODY FUNCTIONS LIKE WALKING, TALKING AND THINKING, THEY WERE ALSO GIVEN THE TWENTY-FOUR KEYS THAT KEPT THE NOME KING CONFINED.
"NO SOLDIER KNEW WHICH KEYS HE CARRIED. ONLY THAT THEY WOULD HELP WIND HIS FUNCTIONS IN ADDITION TO OPENING THE PRISON LOCKS.
"I HAVE BEEN COLLECTING THEM FOR YEARS."

"I HAD NO QUARREL WITH THE TINKER SOLDIERS, BUT THEIR SACRIFICE WILL BE REMEMBERED IN THE COMING REBIRTH OF OZ."
THIS IS GOING TO TAKE AN ETERNITY. I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I'M LOOKING IN THE RIGHT SPOT.
OH! MOMBI...
"... WHERE IS THAT GLASS CAT OF YOURS?"

THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF OZ ARE JUST BEGINNING.
THE MICE DID THEIR JOB TO GREAT EFFECT. MORE THAN PIPT AND HIS GENTLEMEN WOULD HAVE EVER EXPECTED.
PEOPLE DO SO LOVE THEIR ORNAMENTATION...

LOOK OUT!
SO MANY THINGS TO DO TODAY...
A NAP IN THE WIZARD'S QUARTERS SOUNDS LIKE A WONDERFUL PLACE TO START.
KRRASSH
WELL, THIS IS RUDE.
I HAVE AN ITINERARY FOR THE DAY, LADIES. IF YOU WISH TO MEET WITH ME, YOU WILL NEED TO ARRANGE IT A MINIMUM OF SEVEN DAYS PRIOR.
KSSH
ARE YOU MAD?

YOU OWE YOUR VERY EXISTENCE TO ME, YOU MONSTROSITY!
SO UNLESS YOU WISH ME TO REMOVE THOSE PRECIOUS MARBLES OF YOURS AND PLACE THEM IN THE HEAD OF SOMETHING MORE LOYAL, I SUGGEST YOU LISTEN TO WHAT GENERAL JINJUR HAS TO SAY.
TK TK TK
OF COURSE. HAPPY TO OBLIGE.
SOMEWHERE BELOW THE RUBBLE HERE IS A SATCHEL FILLED WITH KEYS. I NEED YOU TO BURROW THROUGH AND FIND IT.
WHY DOESN'T MOMBI JUST WHISK IT ALL OUT OF YOUR WAY?
BECAUSE WE DON'T KNOW WHERE IT IS, AND SHE COULD END UP SCATTERING THE KEYS TO THE FOUR CORNERS OF OZ WITH HER WHIRLWINDS.
THE SATCHEL IS PURPLE, WITH A CLASP THAT LOOKS LIKE A TINKER SOLDIER'S HAND.
UNDERSTOOD, MADAM.

MOMBI'S RANCH
WE'VE BEEN OVER THIS A DOZEN TIMES, GLINDA.
AND DESPITE THE EVIDENCE HERE...
THIS LOOKS LIKE... NAW.
THIS AIN'T MY FIGHT.
THIS IS EVERYONE'S FIGHT, LAW MAN. EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD IN OZ.
YOU MENTIONED THE ROCK MONSTERS. THE NOMES. THAT'S THE ONE THING 'BOUT ALL THIS THAT BOTHERS ME. 'CAUSE THEM THINGS AIN'T EASY TA KILL.
TELL ME YER PLAN HERE, GLINDA.
IT IS AS SIMPLE AS IT IS COMPLICATED.
WE WILL RETURN TO THE EMERALD CITY AND CAPTURE MOMBI. I CAN TRACE HER MAGIC ACROSS OZ, SO I KNOW SHE IS THERE. NOW.
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE GET HER? SHE'S NO LIKELY TA JUST TELL US WHERE OZMA IS.

YOU'RE RIGHT, TIP. SHE WILL NOT WILLINGLY GIVE US THE INFORMATION WE SEEK.
WE MAY VERY WELL NEED METHODS OF PERSUASION THAT I AM NOT ABLE TO ENGAGE IN.
NOW I SEE WHY YA WANT ME ALONG. BUT I'M SURE JACK WOULD BE JUST AS WILLIN' AND ABLE TA PUT THE FEAR OF THE WIZARD IN HER.
MORE THAN WILLING, OLD MAN, BUT THE FACT IS, WE NEED AS MANY AS WE CAN MUSTER TO GET THIS JOB DONE.
MUSCLE, MAGIC, DECOYS... HEART. WE NEED ALL OF YOU.
ONE MORE TIME. ONE MORE ADVENTURE. THEN I'M RETIRING TO MUNCHKIN LAND AND EATIN' SUGAR BREAD TILL I RUST.
I'LL TAKE YOU THERE MYSELF... TIN MAN.
THANK YOU FOR THAT, JACK.
NOW... HOW WE GETTIN' THERE?
STAND CLOSE TO ME. WE WILL DO THIS TOGETHER.

WELL I'LL BE...
THE RUMORS... THE LEGENDS... ALL FALL UTTERLY SHORT...
THAT'S IT? THAT'S ALL THERE IS? A BUNCH OF BUILDINGS CARVED OUT OF EMERALDS?
KINDA... SIMPLE... AIN'T IT?
OW!

SO WHAT'S THE NEXT STEP?
AS A FRIEND OF MINE ONCE SAID ON THIS VERY SPOT...
...WE FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD.
OZ. THE NORTHWESTERN POINT OF WINKIE COUNTRY.
A LONE RIDER ON A DIRECT HEADING FOR THE DEADLY DESERT THAT SURROUNDS OZ.
I THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE IN MY TRAVELS.
COVERING THIS DISTANCE IN SUCH A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT THE USE OF MAGIC.
I AM, AS ALWAYS, AT YOUR DISPOSAL.
NOW READY YOURSELF FOR THE FORMATION OF THE BRIDGE TO EV.

I AM IN YOUR HANDS, RAINBOW KING. DO NOT FORGET OUR BARGAIN.
IT IS A BARGAIN I WILL KEEP FOR ALL OF TIME, MISTRESS.
IT WILL NOT BE LONG BEFORE I AM MISSED AT THE EMERALD CITY.
JINJUR AND I HAVE BEEN TOGETHER FOR MANY, MANY YEARS. BUT OUR TIME IS OVER NOW THAT SHE HAS ACCOMPLISHED HER GOAL.
AND NOW, WITH THE NOME KING ABOUT TO BE RELEASED, I MUST RETURN TO MY HOME AND FURTHER MY OWN PLANS FOR THE FUTURE OF OZ.
CLIP
CLOP
CLIP
CLOP

I APPEAR TO BE EARLY. NO ONE IS HERE FOR MY ARRIVAL.
NO MATTER. THE POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE OF A PRINCESS RETURNING HOME CAN BE SOMEWHAT EXTRANEOUS.
ALL I TRULY REQUIRE AT THIS POINT IS A CHANGE. LISSETTE HAS HAD HER TIME IN THE SUN.
WILL YOU BE MISSED, LISSETTE? WILL THEY GRIEVE FOR YOUR LOSS? WILL THEY ERECT A STATUE IN YOUR MEMORY?

AH, WELL. THE ONLY QUESTION NOW IS...
...WHO'S NEXT?
NEXT ISSUE:
THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE DISCOVERY!